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United Nations

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Nineteenth session
(5-9 May 2003)

General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-eighth Session
Supplement No. 8 (A/58/8)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Introduction

1. The Governing Council was established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001.

2. The report of the Governing Council on the work of its nineteenth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162 and paragraph 7 of section A of General Assembly resolution 56/206.

3. The Governing Council consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present the Governing Council is composed of the following members[1]:

Algeria*
Argentina***
Austria**
Bangladesh**
Barbados*
Belgium**
Benin*
Brazil***
Burkina Faso***
Burundi***
Chile***
China**
Colombia*
Croatia*
Czech Republic*
Democratic Republic of the Congo***
Ecuador***
Egypt**
Italy**
Jamaica**
Japan***
Jordan*
Kenya*
Ethiopia**
France**
Germany*
Greece*
Guinea**
Haiti**
India*
Indonesia ***
Iran, Islamic Republic of***
Iraq**
Madagascar**
Malawi***
Malaysia*
Mexico*
Morocco*
Netherlands***
Norway*
Pakistan***
Philippines*
Poland***
Republic of Moldova**
Russian Federation***
Senegal***
Sierra Leone***
Spain*
Sri Lanka*
Sweden**
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
Trinidad and Tobago**
Turkey***
Uganda*
United Arab Emirates**
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland***
United Republic of Tanzania**
United States of America***

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2003.
** Term of office expires on 31 December 2004.
*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2006.

4. The nineteenth session of the Governing Council was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), Nairobi, from 5 to 9 May 2003.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened on Monday, 5 May 2003, by Mr. Sid Ali-Ketrandji, Chair of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session. A summary of his statement is provided in annex IV to the present proceedings.

6. The opening statement by Mr. Ali-Ketrandji was followed by a welcoming performance by the United Nations staff choir, Song Birds, and by a Kenyan music dance group, Bomas of Kenya.

7. Following that presentation, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was read out by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka. The text of the Secretary-General's message is reproduced in annex V below.

8. The President of the United Nations Nairobi Staff Union also addressed the Governing Council.

9. The Governing Council also heard a statement from Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A summary of this statement appears in annex IV below.

10. The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, then delivered a policy statement. A summary of her statement appears in annex IV below.

11. H.E. the Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Michael Kijana Wamalwa, then addressed the Governing Council and inaugurated the session. A summary of his statement is provided in annex IV below.

B. Attendance

12. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Belgium
Benin
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Chile
China
Colombia
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Egypt
Ethiopia
France
Germany
Greece
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Malawi
Malaysia
Mexico

Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Russian Federation
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America.

13. The following States not members of the Governing Council participated as observers:

Afghanistan
Angola
Bahrain
Botswana
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Denmark
Djibouti
Eritrea
Finland
Gambia
Ghana
Hungary
Israel
Kuwait
Latvia
Lesotho
Liberia
Mali
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Palestine
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Slovakia
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Ukraine
Venezuela
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

14. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

15. The following United Nations bodies were represented: International Finance Corporation–World Bank, Secretariat of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations Centre for Regional Development, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Fund For Women (UNIFEM), United Nations High Commissioner For Human Rights (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

16. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

17. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: CARE International, ComHABITAT/Commonwealth Secretariat, Commission of the African Union (CAU), Council of Europe, European Commission, Shelter Afrique.

18. Representatives of the following local authorities and national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the meeting: Arab Towns Organization (ATO), Association of Local, Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT), Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK), Banjul City Council, City of Johannesburg, City of San Fernando, La Union-Philippines, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Dubai Municipality, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Council (Coppem), Fukuoka City, International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Kanifing Municipal Council–Gambia, Kisumu City Council, Municipal Council of Eldoret, Municipal Council of Nakuru, Municipal Council of Voi, Municipal Development Partnership for Africa, Nairobi City Council – Kenya, United Towns Organization (UTO)/WACLAC, World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC).

19. In addition, 57 non-governmental organizations were represented. A full list of the non-governmental organizations attending the session, together with the names and contacts of their representatives, may be found in the final list of participants, which is available under the symbol HSP/GC/19/INF/11.

20. Some 84 private-sector organizations were represented.

21. The following regional and national assemblies and national parliaments were represented: East African Legislative Assembly, National Assembly of Gambia, National Assembly of Kenya, Parliament of the Republic of Namibia and Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, Kosovo.

C. Election of officers

22. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 5 May 2003, Mr. Bo Göransson (Sweden) was elected President of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

23. The following other officers were also elected for the session:

Vice-Presidents	Mr. S.R.M. Arumugan Thondaman (Sri Lanka)
	Mr. Henry Midian (Malawi)
	Mr. Adam Kowalewski (Poland)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Benjamin Concha (Chile)

24. Following his election, Mr. Göransson expressed appreciation to the Governing Council for the confidence placed in him.

D. Credentials

25. In pursuance of rule 11, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on 9 May 2003, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the nineteenth session of the Governing Council and had found them to be in order. The Governing Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same plenary meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

26. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 May 2003, the Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda for the nineteenth session as contained in document HS/GC/19/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT: progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

6. Special themes:

   (a) Urban development strategies and shelter strategies favouring the poor;

   (b) The rural dimension of sustainable urban development.

7. Report of the Executive Director on the dialogues on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities.

8. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, for the biennium 2004-2005 and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2004-2005.

9. Proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, for the period 2006-2009.

10. Coordination matters:

    (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, and the United Nations Environment Programme;

    (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council.

11. Themes for the twentieth and future sessions of the Governing Council.

12. Other matters.

13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twentieth session of the Governing Council.

14. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

27. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 May 2003, the Governing Council established a sessional Committee of the Whole and allocated agenda items 6(a), 6(b), 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 to it. The remaining items were considered in plenary.

28. As recommended in the annotated provisional agenda (HSP/GC/19/1/Add.1, annex III), it was decided that the plenary should divide its work into three segments: first, a high-level segment, which was held from 5 to 6 May 2003, and at which the Governing Council considered agenda items 4 and 5; second, dialogue I on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, which took place on 6 and 7 May 2003; and third, dialogue II on financing slum upgrading which took place also on 7 May 2003.

29. Summaries by the Chair of the debate in the high-level segment, the dialogue on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, and the dialogue on financing slum upgrading are contained in annex III below.

30. In addition, the Governing Council established a Drafting Committee to consider draft resolutions submitted by delegations to the Governing Council and a Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council.

G. Work of the Committee of the Whole

31. The Committee of the Whole, which was chaired by Mr. Henry Midian (Malawi), Vice-President of the Governing Council, held five meetings, from 5 to 8 May 2003.

H. Work of the Drafting Committee and adoption of resolutions by the Governing Council

32. The Drafting Committee, which was chaired by Mr. Adam Kowalewski, Vice-President of the Governing Council, held eight meetings, between 6 and 8 May 2003. The Committee reached agreement on all 18 draft resolutions before it.

33. The resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council, are contained in annex I below, together with an indication of the date and meeting of their adoption.

I. Work of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council

34. The Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, which was chaired by Mr. Arumugan Thondaman, Vice-President of the Governing Council, held six meetings, between 6 and 9 May 2003. The Working Group debated and produced recommendations to the plenary on 69 rules of procedure set out in document HSP/GC/19/3/Add.2. The Working Group also produced draft resolutions for adoption by the plenary recommending adoption of the rules of procedure by the General Assembly and adopting procedures for the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda[2] partners to sessions of the Governing Council. It also produced an interpretative statement by the Chair of the Working Group on the meaning of the phrase "recognized by the United Nations" as used in draft rule 64, for adoption by the plenary. The Working Group's report of its deliberations and its recommendations to the plenary are contained in annex II.

J. Adoption of the report of the session

35. The present report was adopted by the Governing Council at its 8th plenary meeting, on 9 May 2003.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

A. Introduction

36. The Governing Council considered agenda item 12 at its 8th plenary meeting, on 9 May 2003. It had before it a proposal by the Bureau on the provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twentieth session of the Governing council (HSP/GC/19/L.3).

B. Discussion

37. A number of delegations expressed concern that the next session of the Governing Council should not conflict with either the next session of the UNEP Governing Council or that of the Commission on Sustainable Development, noting that the timely delivery of pre-session documents for past sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements had been negatively affected by scheduling conflicts.

38. Several delegations expressed a similar concern with respect to meetings of the World Urban Forum, suggesting that the two bodies should not meet in the same year. A clear distinction needed to be drawn between their meetings, with those of the Governing Council being seen as forums for "governing and decision-making" and those of the World Urban Forum as a venue for dialogues and the exchange of new ideas and possible solutions.

39. With respect to the agenda for the twentieth session of the Governing Council, it was agreed that a new item 6 would be added, entitled: Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] on improving the lives of slum dwellers.

C. Action taken by the Governing Council

40. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 9 May 2003, the Governing Council decided that its twentieth session would be held from 11 to 15 April 2005 at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in Nairobi. At the same meeting, the Governing Council decided to adopt the following provisional agenda for its twentieth session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT: progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Special themes:

   (a) Involvement of civil society in improving local governance;

   (b) Post-conflict, natural and man-made disasters assessment and reconstruction.

6. Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers.

7. Recommendations on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities.

8. Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

9. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, for the biennium 2006-2007 and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2006-2007.

10. Coordination matters:

    (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, and the United Nations Environment Programme;

    (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

    (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council.

11. Themes for the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council.

12. Other matters.

13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council.

14. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. Closure of the session.

III. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

41. In her closing remarks, the Executive Director stated her view that the session had been extremely successful and that the decisions taken by the Governing Council would enable UN-HABITAT to fulfil its mandate as a fully-fledged programme of the United Nations. She noted in particular that the session, which had been characterized by intensive but constructive debates and negotiations, had been well attended by both member States and Habitat Agenda partners from local government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

42. She was encouraged by the Governing Council's support for UN-HABITAT's work programme and budget, which had been designed to refocus UN-HABITAT on the Millennium Development Goals,[4] and in particular those relating to slum upgrading and improving the lives of slum dwellers. She also welcomed the Governing Council's endorsement of the UN-HABITAT strategic vision, including the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, the Global Campaign on Urban Governance and its technical cooperation and operational activities.

43. In the critical area of financing, she said that UN-HABITAT would continue to explore and build partnerships with financial institutions, the private sector and other partners to develop financial mechanisms to strengthen UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. UN-HABITAT would also strive to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other human settlements development. She hoped therefore to be able to report on positive developments at the Governing Council's next session.

44. After expressing her appreciation to the President and other Bureau members, the Government of Kenya and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, she pledged the continued efforts of the secretariat towards the implementation of the Governing Council's resolutions and expressed her belief that, working together, all concerned could build a world in which everyone could live a life of dignity, good health, safety, happiness and hope.

45. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President of the Governing Council declared the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme closed at 1.35 p.m. on Friday, 9 May 2003.

Annex I

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION

Resolution No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
	A. Resolution requiring action by the General Assembly		
19/1	Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) (8 May 2003)	9 May 2003	12
	B. Other decisions		
19/2	Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2004-2005	9 May 2003	30
19/3	Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance	9 May 2003	33
19/4	Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme	9 May 2003	35
19/5	Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Mil'ennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers	9 May 2003	37
19/6	Water and sanitation in cities	9 May 2003	39
19/7	Regional and technical cooperation	9 May 2003	41
19/8	Arrangements regarding the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners	9 May 2003	42
19/9	Themes for the twentieth session of the Governing Council	9 May 2003	44
19/10	Urban-rural linkages and sustainable urbanization	9 May 2003	44
19/11	Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation	9 May 2003	46
19/12	Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities	9 May 2003	48

Resolution No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
19/13	Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of UN-HABITAT	9 May 2003	50
19/14	World Urban Forum, Barcelona 2004	9 May 2003	51
19/15	Countries with economies in transition	9 May 2003	53
19/16	Women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading	9 May 2003	54
19/17	Least developed countries	9 May 2003	57
19/18	Human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories	9 May 2003	57

19/1. Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, which established the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, whereby the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, and decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT would serve as the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council,

Recalling further paragraph 2 of part I A of General Assembly resolution 56/206, which requested the Governing Council to propose, for consideration by the General Assembly, the new rules of procedure of the Governing Council, on the basis of the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements and bearing in mind paragraphs 3, 7 and 8 of part I A of that same resolution,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT in the drafting of the new rules of procedure,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT annexed hereto.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

Annex

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

I. SESSIONS

Number of regular sessions

Rule 1

The Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) shall normally hold one regular session every two years.

Date of opening and duration of regular sessions

Rule 2

The date of opening and duration of each session shall be decided by the Governing Council. Each regular session shall be held, subject to the provisions of rule 3, at a date fixed by the Governing Council at the

session immediately preceding the one in question, in such a way as to enable the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider the report of the Governing Council in the same year.

Rule 3

Five members of the Governing Council or the Executive Director may request an alteration of the date of a regular session. In either case, the Executive Director shall forthwith communicate the request to the other members of the Governing Council, together with appropriate observations, including financial implications, if any. If within twenty-one days of the inquiry a majority of the members of the Governing Council explicitly concurs in the request, the Executive Director shall convene the Governing Council accordingly.

Place of regular sessions

Rule 4

Regular sessions of the Governing Council shall be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme unless otherwise decided by the Governing Council at a previous session, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

Special sessions

Rule 5

1. Special sessions shall be held pursuant to a decision taken by the Governing Council at a regular session, or at the request of:

(a) A majority of the members of the Governing Council;

(b) The General Assembly;

(c) The Economic and Social Council.

2. Special sessions may also be requested by:

(a) Five Member States of the United Nations or State Members of the specialized agencies[1] whether or not they are members of the Governing Council;

(b) The President of the Governing Council with the concurrence of the other members of the Bureau of the Governing Council and in consultation with the Executive Director;

(c) In the two cases referred to in subparagraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) above, the Executive Director shall immediately inform all members of the Governing Council of the request, as well as the approximate cost and

[1] When the term "Specialized Agencies" is used in these rules, it refers to Specialized Agencies brought into relationship with the United Nations; it also includes the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Trade Organization, the World Tourism Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear -Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

relevant administrative considerations, and shall inquire whether they concur in it. If within twenty-one days of the inquiry a majority of the members of the Governing Council explicitly concurs in the request, the Executive Director shall convene a special session of the Governing Council.

Date of opening of special sessions

Rule 6

Special sessions of the Governing Council shall normally be convened within forty-two days of the receipt by the Executive Director of a request for such a session, at a date and place fixed by the President of the Governing Council in consultation with the Executive Director, taking into account such observations as may have been made in the request for a special session.

Notification of sessions

Rule 7

1. The Executive Director shall send notification of the date and place of each session and the provisional agenda of the Governing Council to:

(a) All members of the Governing Council;

(b) All other Member States of the United Nations or State Members of specialized agencies;

(c) The specialized agencies and appropriate United Nations bodies;

(d) The entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities referred to in rule 63;

(e) The organizations referred to in rules 64, 65 and 66.

2. Copies of such notification shall be addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Economic and Social Council and to the organizations and institutions referred to in rule 66.

3. The notification referred to in this rule shall, in the case of a regular session, be sent in the working languages of the Governing Council as stipulated in rule 29 not less than sixty days prior to the opening of the session and, in the case of a special session, not less than fourteen days prior to its opening.

Adjournment of session

Rule 8

The Governing Council may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meeting at a later date.

II. AGENDA

Drawing up of the provisional agenda

Rule 9

1. The Executive Director in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council shall draw up and place before each regular session of the Governing Council a provisional agenda for its next regular session.

2. The provisional agenda shall include all items proposed by:

(a) The Governing Council;

(b) The General Assembly;

(c) The Economic and Social Council;

(d) A Member State of the United Nations or a State Member of a specialized agency; or

(e) The Executive Director.

3. In drawing up the provisional agenda, the Executive Director may consult with other appropriate United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and any intergovernmental organization entitled to notification under rule 7; suggestions from the organizations referred to in rules 64, 65 and 66 may also be considered.

4. The provisional agenda of a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session.

Communication of the provisional agenda

Rule 10

The notification referred to in rule 7 shall include a copy of the provisional agenda of the session to which such notification relates.

Supplementary items

Rule 11

1. After the Governing Council has adopted the provisional agenda of a future session of the Governing Council, any authority entitled under paragraph 2 of rule 9 above to propose an item for the provisional agenda may propose supplementary items for inclusion in such agenda. Such proposal, unless made by the General

Assembly, shall be accompanied by a supporting statement from the party proposing it, explaining the urgency of the consideration of the item.

2. The Executive Director shall promptly circulate to all members of the Governing Council all requests received under the provision of this rule, with the accompanying supporting statements where applicable, together with any comments or observations which the Executive Director may wish to make on such matters.

Adoption of the agenda

Rule 12

1. The Governing Council shall at the beginning of each session adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda and the supplementary items referred to in rule 11.

2. Any authority listed in paragraph 2 of rule 9 which has proposed a supplementary item for inclusion in the agenda shall be entitled to be heard by the Governing Council on the inclusion of the item in the agenda for the session.

3. Unless the Governing Council decides otherwise, an item shall normally be included in the agenda at the time of adoption only if the documentation related to that item has been circulated to members in all the working languages of the Governing Council not less than forty two days in advance of the opening date of the session.

4. The Governing Council may allocate items among the plenary meetings of the Governing Council and subsidiary organs, set up in accordance with rule 22, and may refer items without preliminary debate in the Governing Council to:

(a) One or more of its subsidiary organs, if any, set up in accordance with rule 22, for examination and report at a subsequent session of the Governing Council;

(b) The Executive Director, for study and report at a subsequent session of the Governing Council; or

(c) The proposer of the item, for further information or documentation.

Provisional agenda for a special session

Rule 13

The provisional agenda for a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session. It shall be transmitted to the authorities mentioned in rule 7 at the same time as the notice convening the Governing Council.

Revision of the agenda

Rule 14

The Governing Council may, during a regular session, revise its agenda for that session by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only items, which the Governing Council considers to be important and urgent, may be added to the agenda during a session.

III. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Representation

Rule 15

Each member of the Governing Council shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required by the member.

Credentials

Rule 16

1. The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director, at the latest, before the end of the first meeting of the session of the Governing Council.

2. The credentials submitted under this rule shall be examined by the Bureau of the Governing Council, which shall report without delay to the Governing Council.

IV. BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Election

Rule 17

1. At the commencement of the first meeting of its regular session, the Governing Council shall elect a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Governing Council.

2. The offices of President and Rapporteur of the Governing Council shall be rotated among the following regional groups of States: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and other States. The Vice- Presidents of the Governing Council shall be elected on the basis of one from each of the regional groups other than the ones to which the President and the Rapporteur belong.

Functions

Rule 18

1. The Bureau of the Governing Council shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Governing Council.

2. The Governing Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall designate from among the Vice-Presidents a Chairperson for any subsidiary organ, subcommittee or working group established under rule 22.

Terms of office

Rule 19

1. The President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall, subject to the provisions of rule 17 be eligible for re-election. None of them may hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which he or she is a representative.

2. If the President ceases to be a representative of a member of the Governing Council or is unable to perform his or her functions, or if the Member State of which he or she is a representative ceases to be a member of the Governing Council, the Bureau shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents as Acting President until a new President is elected by the Governing Council.

Acting President

Rule 20

1. If the President cannot preside over a meeting, or any part thereof, he or she shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to act in his or her stead.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 21

The President or a Vice-President acting as President may delegate his or her right to vote to another member of his or her delegation.

V. SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Establishment

Rule 22

1. The Governing Council may, during a session set up such subsidiary organs, subcommittees or working groups composed of members of the Governing Council as it may deem necessary and refer to them any item on the agenda or any other question for consideration and report.

2. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT shall serve as the Governing Council's permanent intersessional subsidiary organs. Membership of the Committee shall be open to all Permanent Representatives of Member States of the United Nations and State Members of the specialized agencies, which are accredited to UN-HABITAT.

3. Subsidiary organs under this rule may set up such sub-committees or working groups, as they may deem necessary for the efficient conduct of their work.

Officers

Rule 23

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 of rule 18 above, subsidiary organs of the Governing Council shall elect their own officers.

2. A subsidiary organ established under rule 22 may, in addition to its Chairperson designated pursuant to paragraph 2 of rule 18, elect two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

3. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT shall elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur who shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee.

4. All other subsidiary organs shall have a Chairperson and, if the subsidiary organ deems it necessary, a Rapporteur.

Applicable rules of procedure

Rule 24

1. The rules of procedure of the Governing Council shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to all subsidiary organs, both sessional and intersessional.

2. The business of temporary intersessional subsidiary organs shall be conducted in the English language only. Records of meetings held by these organs shall also be kept in the English language only.

VI. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Duties of the Executive Director

Rule 25

1. The Executive Director shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Governing Council and of its subsidiary organs, if any, and may for this purpose designate a member of the secretariat to act as his or her representative.

2. The Executive Director shall be responsible for performing those functions in relation to the Governing Council, which he or she is required to undertake by General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 56/206.

3. The Executive Director shall be responsible for providing and directing the staff required by the Governing Council or any subsidiary organ and for making all necessary arrangements for the Governing Council's meetings, including the preparation and distribution of documents in the working languages of the Governing Council at least six weeks in advance of the session of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs.

4. The Executive Director shall, during the intersessional period, keep the members of the Governing Council informed of any matters that may be brought before the Governing Council for consideration.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 26

The secretariat shall ensure that statements made at meetings are interpreted; shall receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs; shall publish and circulate the resolutions, reports and relevant documentation of the Governing Council in all working languages. It shall have the custody of the documents in the archives of the Governing Council and generally perform all other work, which the Governing Council may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 27

The Executive Director, or a member of the secretariat designated by him or her, may at any time, upon the invitation of the President, make either oral or provide written statements to the Governing Council concerning any matter under consideration by it.

Statement of financial implication

Rule 28

1. Before any proposal involving the expenditure of United Nations funds, including funds of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, is approved by the Governing Council, or by any of its subsidiary organs, the Executive Director shall prepare and provide to the Governing

Council or the subsidiary organ concerned, a statement of the financial implications of implementing the proposal.

2. The Governing Council shall take into account the estimates referred to in paragraph 1 above before adopting any proposal involving expenditure from the United Nations funds including the resources of the Foundation. If the proposal is adopted, the Governing Council shall indicate, whenever appropriate, the priority or degree of urgency which it attaches to the projects and, as the case may be, which current projects may be deferred, modified, or eliminated to ensure that the work of UN-HABITAT will be carried out in the most effective manner.

3. The Executive Director shall submit to the Governing Council at each regular session, the estimates of expenditure of UN-HABITAT for the following biennium, borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. He or she shall also submit to the Governing Council estimates of expenditure borne by the Foundation for the same biennium, in accordance with the general procedures governing the operations of the Foundation and the relevant United Nations Financial Regulations 5.10 and 9.4 and relevant financial rules as contained in ST/SGB/UNHHSF Financial Rules/3.

VII. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Official and working languages

Rule 29

1. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official and working languages of the Governing Council. Speeches made in any of these languages shall be interpreted into the other languages of the Governing Council.

2. Any representative of a member of the Governing Council may make a statement in any other language provided he or she arranges for interpretation of the statement into one of the official and working languages of the Governing Council. Interpretation into the other official languages by the interpreters of the secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first official language.

Languages of resolutions and other formal decisions

Rule 30

All resolutions, recommendations, other formal decisions and reports of the Governing Council shall be made available in the official languages of the Governing Council.

Circulation of formal decisions and reports

Rule 31

As soon as reasonably practicable, the resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions of the Governing Council shall be communicated by the secretariat to all members of the Governing Council and to any other participants in the session. The printed text of such resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions, as well as the report of the Governing Council to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, shall be distributed in all the working languages of the Governing Council after the close of the

session to all Member States of the United Nations, State Members of the specialized agencies and entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities referred to in rule 63.

Sound recording of meeting.

Rule 32

Sound recordings of meetings of the Governing Council shall be made and kept by the secretariat in accordance with the applicable rules and practice of the United Nations. Such recordings may also be made of the proceedings of any subsidiary organ if the Governing Council so decides.

VIII. PUBLIC OR PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principle

Rule 33

Meetings of the Governing Council, its sessional committees and other subsidiary organs, shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 34

The President may declare a meeting of the Governing Council open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Governing Council shall, however, be required for any decision to be taken.

General powers of the President

Rule 35

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Governing Council, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Governing Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Governing Council the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President in the exercise of his or her functions remains under the authority of the Governing Council.

Speeches

Rule 36

1. The Governing Council shall only be addressed after the President has granted permission.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Governing Council and the President may call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to that question.

3. Subject to rules 38 and 40, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.

4. At the request of the delegations concerned, the order of speakers may be altered.

Time-limit on speeches

Rule 37

With the approval of the Governing Council, the President may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each delegation may speak on any question, provided that an intervention on a procedural question shall be limited to five minutes. When a speaker has exceeded his allotted time, the President shall promptly call him or her to order.

Points of order

Rule 38

1. During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a member of the Governing Council may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

2. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion

Closing of list of speakers

Rule 39

In the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Governing Council, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall, with the consent of the Governing Council, declare the debate closed.

Right of reply

Rule 40

The right of reply shall be accorded by the President to any member of the Governing Council which requests it. Representatives should attempt, in exercising this right, to be as brief as possible and preferably to deliver their statements at the end of the meeting at which this right is requested.

Motions to suspend or adjourn meeting

Rule 41

A representative of a member of the Governing Council may at any time during the discussion of any matter move that the meeting be suspended or adjourned. The Governing Council shall, without discussion, immediately decide on such motion.

Motions to adjourn debate

Rule 42

A representative of a member of the Governing Council may at any time move that the debate on the item under discussion be adjourned. Permission to speak on the motion shall be granted only to two other representatives in favour of the motion and to two opposing it, after which the Governing Council shall immediately decide on the motion.

Motions to close debate

Rule 43

A representative of a member of the Governing Council may at any time move that the debate on the item under discussion be closed, whether or not any other representative has signified his or her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the Governing Council shall immediately decide on the motion.

Order of motions

Rule 44

Subject to the right to raise a point of order under rule 38, the following motions shall have precedence in the order indicated over all other proposals and motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 45

1. Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Executive Director, who shall circulate copies thereof to the members of the Governing Council.

2. In principle, no such proposal or amendment shall be discussed or voted upon at any meeting of the Governing Council unless copies of it have been made available to all members of the Governing Council not later than the day preceding that in which the meeting is to be held. The Governing Council may, however, decide to waive this requirement in a particular case or cases.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 46

1. A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting on it has commenced or a decision on it has been taken or an amendment to it has been adopted.

2. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be re-introduced by another member.

Decisions on competence

Rule 47

Any motion raising the issue of the competence of the Governing Council to adopt a proposal or any amendment before it shall be decided upon first before any decision is made on the proposal or amendment in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 48

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Governing Council so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

X. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

General principles

Rule 49

Subject to the provisions of rule 38 the Governing Council may decide any question without a vote and shall normally make decisions by consensus. A vote shall, however, be taken if a representative of a member of the Governing Council so requests.

Voting rights

Rule 50

Each member of the Governing Council shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 51

1. Decisions of the Governing Council taken by vote shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting. If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, the proposal or amendment shall be considered rejected.

2. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" refers only to members casting affirmative or negative votes and does not include members abstaining from voting.

Method of voting

Rule 52

1. Except as provided in paragraph 2 of this rule and rule 58, the Governing Council shall normally vote by show of hands; any member of the Governing Council, may, however, request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of members of the Governing Council, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by the President. The vote of each member participating in a roll call shall be inserted in the appropriate record of the Governing Council.

2. When the Governing Council votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call. A member of the Governing Council may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a member of the Governing Council requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the members participating in the Governing Council.

Conduct during voting

Rule 53

Once the President has signalled the commencement of voting, no representative may interrupt the voting except on a point of order related to the actual process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 54

The President may permit a member of the Governing Council to make a brief statement in explanation of his or her vote either before or after the voting on the proposal or motion being voted upon.

Division of proposals or amendments

Rule 55

A representative of a member of the Governing Council may move that part of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favour and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Decisions on amendments

Rule 56

1. An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from or revise part of another proposal.

2. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Order of decisions on proposals

Rule 57

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall be decided on in the order in which they were submitted, unless the Governing Council decides otherwise. The Governing Council may, after a decision on one proposal, decide whether or not to go on to consider the next proposal.

2. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of a proposal shall be decided on first before that proposal.

Elections

Rule 58

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless there is an agreed candidate or slate of candidates and the Governing Council decides to proceed without taking a ballot.

Rule 59

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the majority required and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such a majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, provided that if only one place remains to be filled the procedures in rule 60 shall be applied. The ballot shall be restricted to the unsuccessful candidates having obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, but not exceeding twice the number of places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number: if a tie again results among more than the required number of candidates, the President shall reduce their number to that required by drawing lots.

3. When a restricted ballot (not counting a special ballot held under the conditions specified in the last sentence of paragraph 2 above) is inconclusive, the President shall decide among the remaining candidates by drawing lots.

Rule 60

1. If, when only one elective place is to be filled, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates having obtained the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held among such candidates for the purpose of reducing their number to two; similarly, in the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held. If a tie again results in the special ballot, the President shall eliminate one candidate by drawing lots, and thereafter another ballot shall be taken among all the remaining candidates. The procedure prescribed by these rules shall, if necessary, be repeated until one candidate is duly elected.

XI. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

States not members of the Governing Council

Rule 61

1. A State, which is a Member of the United Nations or a member of a specialized agency, but not a member of the Governing Council, may participate in the deliberations of the Governing Council in the capacity of observer, in all meetings referred to in rule 33.

2. An observer State shall not have the right to vote or make a procedural motion, but may submit proposals, which may be put to a decision at the request of a member of the Governing Council.

Other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies

Rule 62

1. Representatives of other United Nations bodies and of the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote or make proposals, in the deliberations of the Governing Council on matters within the scope of their activities.

2. Such United Nations bodies and specialized agencies may circulate written statements relating to the items on the agenda of interest to them to members of the Governing Council.

Entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities

Rule 63

Representatives of the entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities accorded permanent observer status by the General Assembly and of other intergovernmental organizations designated on a continuing basis by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council or invited by the Governing Council may participate, without the right to vote or to make proposals, in the deliberations of the Governing Council on matters within the scope of the activities of such organizations.

Local authorities

Rule 64

Duly accredited representatives of local authorities, invited by the Executive Director, in consultation with their respective governments, where requested, or representing national or international associations or organizations recognized by the United Nations, may participate, as observers at public meetings, in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs.

Other Habitat Agenda partners

Rule 65

1. Duly accredited representatives of other Habitat Agenda partners may sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Non-governmental organizations

Rule 66

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs. A non-governmental organization attending a meeting of the Governing Council

may, upon the invitation of the President and with the approval of the Governing Council, make oral statements on matters within the scope of its activities.

Written statements

Rule 67

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 61 to 66 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it, provided that statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 64 to 66 are related to the work of the Governing Council and are on a subject in which they have a special competence.

XII. SUSPENSION, AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Suspension of rules

Rule 68

A rule of procedure may be temporarily suspended by the Governing Council provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for suspension has been given to members. The requirement of notice may be waived if no member of the Governing Council rejects.

Amendment of rules

Rule 69

The Governing Council may, by a decision adopted by a majority of members of the Governing Council present and voting, amend any of these rules but only after it has received a report on the proposed amendment from a working group established by the Governing Council for that purpose.

19/2. Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2004-2005

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[5] the Habitat Agenda[2] and General Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, whereby the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) was designated as a focal point, within the United Nations system, for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[6] which identified gaps in and obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and proposed actions for overcoming them,

Recalling also the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002, to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015 and to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020,

Taking into account the emphasis placed in the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and also in resolution 18/6 of 16 February 2001 of the Commission on Human Settlements on monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of information on best practices in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly urged the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to provide advisory services and improved technical cooperation activities in the area of human settlement development to Governments,

Bearing in mind also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly called for the strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, with the active participation and collaboration of organizations within and outside the United Nations system,

Welcoming the significant progress made in implementing the new strategic vision for a revitalized UN-HABITAT, in accordance with resolution 17/7 of 14 May 1999 of the Commission on Human Settlements, and in the revitalization of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the improvement of the administrative and financial management of UN-HABITAT and the regularization of staff positions,

Noting with satisfaction the reorganization of the work programme of UN-HABITAT into four subprogrammes, including the integration of work on the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development into a single subprogramme and the establishment of separate subprogrammes on monitoring the Habitat Agenda, regional and technical cooperation and human settlements financing, in the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, and the related realignment of the programme structure and the organizational structure in line with Office of Internal Oversight Services recommendations,[7]

Expressing concern about the relatively low level of non-earmarked contributions, leading to the continuing and growing imbalance between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions, and about the fact that the donor base for non-earmarked contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation remains very small, with only seven main donors providing 85 per cent of the contributions in 2002,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002, which invites Governments that are in a position to do so, and their Habitat Agenda partners, to increase their financial contributions to the Foundation in a predictable manner,

Welcoming the interaction between the secretariat and member Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, during the implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2002-2003 and the preparation of the work programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005,

Noting the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2004-2005,

1. Approves the draft work programme for the 2004-2005 biennium as contained in the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2004-2005 (HSP/GC/19/8) as amended by document HSP/19/8 Add. 1 and subsequent amendments approved by the Governing Council;[8]

2. Approves a budget of $44, 412, 900 for the biennium 2004-2005 as contained in document HSP/GC/19/9/Add.3;

3. Endorses the budget targets detailed by the Executive Director in document HSP/GC/19/9 and authorizes her, subject to availability of resources and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to make commitments above the level of $44, 412,900 and up to $50,520,500;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions the revised work programme and budget documents as approved by the Governing Council and keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of the response of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

5. Approves an increase in the general purpose statutory reserve from $1,002,663 to $2,419,100 for the 2004-2005 biennium;

6. Urges Governments that are in a position to do so, and their Habitat Agenda[2] partners, to increase their financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and invites all Governments and other donors to pledge and make their contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation at the earliest possible date in order to enable UN-HABITAT to plan its activities more effectively, with contributions preferably being made on the basis of multi-year non-earmarked pledges and/or multi-year partnership programmes;

7. Requests the Executive Director, while preparing the chapter on Human Settlements of the Medium-Term Plan of the United Nations, for the period 2006-2009, to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives as early as possible and to take full account of their views during the intersessional period;

8. Requests the Executive Director to develop innovative approaches and to mobilize adequate financial resources, including for innovative activities;

9. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twentieth session the budget and work programme for the biennium 2006-2007 in a prioritized and integrated document, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report dated 13 March 2003;

10. Also requests the Executive Director to present progress reports on a regular basis, to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the implementation of the 2004-2005 work programme.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/3. Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling the goals and principles, commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda[2] on the themes "Adequate shelter for all" and "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world",

Recalling also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[6] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session,

Recalling further the adoption on 4 September 2002 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[9]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which designates the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance as strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and Commission on Human Settlements resolution 18/3 of 16 February 2001 on the same topic,

Noting with satisfaction the activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to promote the global campaigns, including the launches and follow-up activities under way in all regions, and the knowledge-management instruments developed to support the implementation of the two global campaigns,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Governments in initiating campaign activities, organizing campaign launches and adopting national action plans to improve security of tenure and urban governance,

Aware of the active partnerships established with new and existing Habitat Agenda partners around the two campaigns, including joint activities with coalitions of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, with the associations of local authorities and with other United Nations organizations, and of the efforts to mainstream the global campaigns in global programmes, including the increasing convergence of the activities of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance with the Urban Management Programme,

Noting the active contributions of Slum/Shack Dwellers International and the International Union of Local Authorities in the implementation of the global campaigns and the successful holding of the first session of the World Urban Forum, and also the particular operational efforts of Slum/Shack Dwellers International to upgrade slums and promote policy alternatives to unlawful forced evictions and the crucial role of the International Union of Local Authorities in chairing the global steering group providing guidance to the Global Campaign on Urban Governance,

Recognizing the need to continue and expand the broad based, inclusive and global process involving Governments, federations of slum dwellers, local authorities, private-sector partners, professional associations, community-based organizations and all other Habitat Agenda partners in implementing secure tenure and urban governance campaign activities at the local, national, regional and global levels,

Emphasizing the importance of secure tenure and urban governance in achieving adequate shelter for all and sustainable urban development,

Welcoming the collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme and UN-HABITAT in the launching of national campaigns and on the occasion of the Global Sub-Practice Meetings on Decentralization, Local Governance and Urban Development, and welcoming also the memorandum of understanding concluded between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Development Programme, which allows for further strengthening of the campaigns at the national level,

Noting further the cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the United Nations Housing Rights Programme as an important component in the advocacy work within the two global campaigns,

1. Requests the Executive Director to promote continued expansion of the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance through policy debate, knowledge management, advocacy, capacity-building and innovative technical cooperation and to ensure the continued support of UN-HABITAT to countries in their individual and collective efforts to stop the practice of unlawful forced evictions and provide security of tenure and urban governance for all people;

2. Invites Governments, in cooperation with other Habitat Agenda partners, to initiate and encourage debate on the principles of secure tenure and urban governance at the national and local levels;

3. Encourages Governments, in cooperation with other Habitat Agenda partners and with assistance from UN-HABITAT, as appropriate, to utilize the advocacy instruments of the global campaigns and to accelerate efforts at the national and local levels to introduce legislation, promote policy reform, strengthen institutional arrangements and build consensus on security of tenure and urban governance;

4. Invites the Executive Director to utilize fully the activities of the global campaigns to improve the lives of slum dwellers significantly;

5. Invites Governments at all levels to explore the possibility of using the urban governance tools developed by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with other Habitat Agenda partners to promote broad based participation in decision making, accountability, simplicity of procedures and transparency and best practices and to support the introduction of these tools in the curricula of relevant institutions, as contained in the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

6. Encourages Governments at all levels to build upon the political will, partnership and organizing capacities of the urban poor, private-sector partners and community-based organizations to scale up city-wide upgrading programmes and promote inclusive city development strategies;

7. Invites all current and potential Habitat Agenda partners to lend their support to the implementation of the global campaigns, to provide contributions and to formalize partnerships with UN-HABITAT to realize the goals of the campaigns;

8. Requests the Executive Director to ensure continued expansion of the range of capacity-building activities and to increase the level of human and financial resources for advocacy tools to support both campaigns, to promote inclusiveness and transparency in local governance within

the legal framework of each country and to measure progress towards achieving security of tenure and urban governance;

9. Also requests the Executive Director to further mainstream the principles of the campaigns through the UN-HABITAT regional offices, regional anchor institutions, urban observatories and national and local institutions and through other networks of community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and municipal associations;

10. Further requests the Executive Director to further enhance synergy with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations organizations in order to help Governments, bearing in mind the differing capabilities of countries, to localize the global campaigns at the national level, and to assist Governments and Habitat Agenda partners working at the municipal and local level in promoting security of tenure and urban governance;

11. Invites Governments in a position to do so to provide further financial and technical support to the global campaigns for secure tenure and on urban governance;

12. Requests the Executive Director to report to it on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution at its next session.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/4. Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Considering General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements", which, as regards the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), called for increased cooperation between United Nations Environment Programme and UN-HABITAT; for UN-HABITAT to assume its role in the Environmental Management Group; for major groups and civil society to be involved in the work of UN-HABITAT; for the information and monitoring capacities of UN-HABITAT to be strengthened; and for UN-HABITAT to continue to develop indicators in the area of environment and human settlements,

Recalling also its resolutions 15/8 of 1 May 1995 and 16/20 of 7 May 1997 on cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme in the Sustainable Cities Programme, its resolution 17/6 of 14 May 1999 on the views of the Commission on Human Settlements on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,[10] and its resolution 18/4 of 16 February 2001 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 and cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme for the effective implementation of Agenda 21,[1] especially its chapters 7, 21 and 28; of the Habitat Agenda,[2] especially its chapter IV, sections C, D, and E; of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[3] and of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[9]

Taking note of the joint progress report[12] of the Executive Directors of UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme on cooperation between the two Programmes,

Noting the importance of cooperation under the four subject areas identified in the joint progress report, namely: assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements; environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements; environmentally sound and appropriate human settlements technology; and research, training and the dissemination of information on environmentally sound human settlements planning and management,

Noting with appreciation the expanding opportunities for continued long-term cooperation in the joint Sustainable Cities Programme,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/242, which emphasized the importance of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-HABITAT in their Nairobi location and of ensuring the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources necessary to both organizations for the fulfilment of their mandates, including by seeking additional financial resources through broadening the range of sources of funding for both organizations, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue working to fully implement General Assembly resolution 53/242 and to continue to expand cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme in areas of common interest;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify the joint work in the Sustainable Cities Programme, the Managing Water for African Cities Programme, the Disaster Management Programme and similar joint programmes and to establish a mechanism for coordinated oversight;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to make effective, where appropriate, the Habitat Agenda task manager system for promoting collective efficiency among Habitat Agenda partners in relation to the biennial sessions of the World Urban Forum, taking into account United Nations system-wide coordination mechanisms such as the Environmental Management Group and the High-level Committee on Programmes;

4. Encourages Governments in a position to do so to provide active technical and financial support to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 and the cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to its next session.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/5. Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda[2] on the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and recalling also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[6] and more particularly its paragraph 46,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and more particularly its paragraph 19, in which heads of State and Government committed themselves "by 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the Cities Without Slums initiative", as reconfirmed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[9]

Recalling paragraph 13 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which recognizes that success in meeting the development and poverty eradication objectives of the Declaration depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country,

Noting with appreciation the initial activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) with relevant United Nations agencies, Member States, the Cities Alliance and the Millennium Project of the United Nations, and emphasizing the importance of a strategic approach for implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers,

Noting with concern the lack of sufficient financial resources and affordable land for housing development in many areas,

Taking note of the recommendations of the World Urban Forum at its first session, particularly those related to the dialogues on cities without slums and on the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure,[13]

Taking note also of the importance of the report on the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission, which endorsed the quinquennial cycle for data collection and dissemination and encouraged UN-HABITAT to convene, in consultation with the United Nations Statistics Division, an expert group meeting to evaluate existing methodologies and data-collection and dissemination instruments,[14]

Bearing in mind the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2] which in its paragraph 66 reconfirms inter alia the role of UN-HABITAT in advocating, promoting, monitoring and assessing progress made in implementing the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in all countries,

Taking into account paragraph 1 of part VI of General Assembly resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000, which encourages Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to provide support for the preparation of the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report on a biennial basis so as to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world,

Acknowledging also that significantly improving the lives of slum dwellers requires detailed knowledge, at a disaggregated level, of the extent of such poverty,

Endorsing and supporting the key role of UN-HABITAT in implementing and monitoring the goal on improving the lives of slum dwellers and also the goal on sustainable access to safe drinking water and waste management, as agreed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to work to fulfil the goal of improving the lives of slum dwellers and to present a strategy paper thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its approval;

2. Requests the Executive Director to explore all available options to increase the financial resources which could support the achievement of that goal taking into account the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[15]

3. Invites Governments and local authorities, as appropriate, to allocate the necessary financial, human and technical resources to meet the human-settlements-related goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to develop and implement national and local action plans for slum upgrading;

4. Encourages Governments to create conditions conducive to transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements as an important contribution towards achieving the goal of improving the lives of slum dwellers;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to further develop and strengthen UN-HABITAT collaboration with the Cities Alliance, all relevant stakeholders and other United Nations agencies, and including the Bretton Woods institutions, other international financing institutions and bilateral development agencies, in order to achieve this goal;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to assist Governments, at their request, in developing effective policy guidelines and action plans to this effect, in particular through a sustained implementation of the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance;

7. Requests the Executive Director, in line with the recommendations of the World Urban Forum at its first session, to establish an advisory group to monitor and identify, and, if so requested, to promote alternatives to unlawful evictions;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to strengthen the Global Urban Observatory as a learning centre able to respond to the demand-based expansion of local urban observatories, with partnerships from research centres of excellence, to enable the Global Urban Observatory to continue to assist countries and cities in collecting, analysing and using urban indicators;

9. Encourages the Executive Director to continue developing partnerships with national statistical offices, the United Nations Statistical Division and regional United Nations economic commissions to incorporate the slum and the secure tenure indices into national population censuses and other surveys and to encourage the release of data thus collected into the public domain;

10. Invites Member States and Habitat Agenda partners in a position to do so to provide financial and substantive support to UN-HABITAT to enable it to further develop methodologies for data collection and dissemination and to evaluate concepts and sources of city and intra-city statistics;

11. Decides that a continuing focus of the twentieth and future sessions of the Governing Council should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

12. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to its next session.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/6. Water and sanitation in cities

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002, to reduce by half, by the year 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002 requesting the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to support developing countries in implementing those targets in order to increase access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter, and to further support the implementation of the Water for African Cities Programme, as requested by the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting with appreciation the partnership established by UN-HABITAT with the United Nations Foundation, the World Bank and several bilateral donors for the implementation of the Water for African Cities Programme,

Noting with appreciation also the partnership with the Asian Development Bank and bilateral donors for the Water for Asian Cities Programme and the efforts by the Executive Director to mobilize further support,

Welcoming also the memorandum of understanding concluded between UN-HABITAT and the Inter-American Development Bank to collaborate in supporting countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in improving urban water and sanitation services,

Welcoming the establishment by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT of a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund as a financing mechanism to support the creation of enabling environments for pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in developing-country cities,

Recognizing the need to expand the water and sanitation activities of UN-HABITAT in countries with economies in transition,

Welcoming the initiative of UN-HABITAT in producing a comprehensive overview of the state of water and sanitation in the world's cities,[16] published on the occasion of the third World Water Forum,

Welcoming also the new momentum generated by the World Summit in the implementation of Water and Sanitation Programmes and a number of emerging initiatives such as the European Water Initiative, the Canada Fund for Africa, the Community Water and Sanitation Facility of the Cities Alliance Programme, and encouraging them to engage in close cooperation to ensure their complementarity,

Noting the upgrading of the former Infrastructure Section into a Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch in order to enhance the capacity of UN-HABITAT in that area,

Aware that safe water and basic sanitation are central to achieving sustainable urbanization and reducing urban poverty,

Aware also of the need for capacity-building, education, access to information and gender mainstreaming for enhanced effectiveness in water and sanitation management,

Conscious of the need to create an environment conducive to increasing pro-poor investment in water and sanitation as an important element in achieving the international development targets contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[9]

1. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen and promote the work of UN-HABITAT in the field of urban drinking water and sanitation and to enhance cooperation with other United Nations and international agencies, and other relevant UN-HABITAT partnerships such as the Cities Alliance;

2. Supports the continued implementation of the Water for African Cities Programme, in line with the recommendations of the evaluation report of that programme;

3. Requests the Executive Director to elaborate a programme for water and sanitation in human settlements in interested countries with economies in transition, in line with those in other regions, subject to the availability of resources, including those of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to consult with Governments in other regions on the possibility of establishing or strengthening water and sanitation programmes in cities;

5. Invites Governments and international financial institutions to increase their support to the water and sanitation activities of UN-HABITAT, including contributions to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Water for African Cities Programme and the Water for Asian Cities Programme;

6. Requests the Executive Director to maintain the leading role of UN-HABITAT on urban water and sanitation in the Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to make *Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities* a recurrent publication to be published every three years on the occasion of the World Water Forum, subject to the availability of funds;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to its next session.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/7. Regional and technical cooperation

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolutions 14/7 of 5 May 1993, 15/7 of 1 May 1995, 16/10 of 6 May 1997, 17/4 and 17/17 of 14 May 1999 and 18/5 of 16 February 2001 on the strengthening of regional activities and on international cooperation for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[2]

Recalling also paragraphs 208 and 228 of the Habitat Agenda, which emphasize the importance of technical cooperation and the responsibility of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to promote, facilitate and execute adequate shelter and human settlements development programmes and projects,

Bearing in mind that UN-HABITAT is a member of the United Nations Development Group, whose principal objective is to strengthen the policy and programme coherence of United Nations development activities,

Noting with regret that international cooperation in shelter and human settlements has not been enhanced significantly since the adoption of the Habitat Agenda in 1996, which is a growing cause for concern as noted in the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[6]

Acknowledging that UN-HABITAT is the lead United Nations agency in all areas of shelter and human settlements development and has responsibility to promote, facilitate and provide technical cooperation to developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Convinced that the complementarity and synergy between operational and normative functions highlighted in "A strategic vision for Habitat: discussion and recommendations"[17] constitute a major asset and comparative advantage of UN-HABITAT,

1. Supports the increasing cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the World Bank and urges the Executive Director to further strengthen her efforts to make the Cities Alliance initiative an effective means for the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002;

2. Notes with appreciation the increasing cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Development Programme, one aim of which is to integrate sustainable urbanization into, inter alia, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and invites host countries to support the placement of locally recruited UN-HABITAT programme managers in selected UNDP offices, taking into account national priorities;

3. Notes with appreciation also the emerging cooperation between UN-HABITAT and regional development banks to promote sustainable urbanization in developing countries, as evidenced

by the recent signing of memorandums of understanding with the Asian Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank and calls upon the Executive Director to pursue such initiatives in other regions;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in the framework of a continuous updating of the regionalization strategy outlined in document HSP/GC/19/INF/9, taking into account the ongoing United Nations reform processes, to strengthen the regional presence and cooperation of UN-HABITAT, including by strengthening the existing regional offices as necessary; and in consultation with interested Governments and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to study the establishment of new offices in a cost effective way and subject to the availability of adequate and long-term financial support from concerned regions, countries and cities.

5. Recommends that the operational activities of UN-HABITAT should be closely associated with the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance and should focus on the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[9] related to water, sanitation, waste management, integrated transportation systems and slum upgrading, and on capacity-building in support of sustainable urbanization policies at country and city levels, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations agencies;

6. Recommends also that UN-HABITAT should devote specific attention to human settlements needs in the reconstruction of countries and territories affected by armed conflicts or by other man-made or natural disasters, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, and that it should ensure appropriate links and continuity between the humanitarian and developmental requirements of the human settlements sector;

7. Invites the Secretary-General, when clarifying roles and responsibilities of United Nations entities in the provision of technical cooperation services, an intention welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300, to take fully into account the experience of UN-HABITAT in shelter and urban development programmes and projects and its function as the United Nations focal point for human settlements;[18]

8. Invites Governments to increase their financial support to the operational activities of UN-HABITAT.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/8. Arrangements regarding the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, which transformed, with effect from 1 January 2002, the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and requested the Governing Council to propose its rules of procedure for consideration by the General Assembly,

Recalling also and in particular paragraph 3 of part I A of that resolution, whereby the General Assembly decided that the practices regarding the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the

Governing Council would be according to the relevant rules of the Economic and Social Council with regard to participation and accreditation, that the established practices of the Commission on Human Settlements would be utilized, and that such practices would in no way create a precedent for other governing bodies of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 50/100 of 20 December 1995 which, inter alia, endorsed the rules of procedure for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey from 3 to 14 June 1996, and particularly Rules 62 and 63, on the participation of designated representatives of local authorities and accredited non-governmental organizations in the deliberations of Habitat II,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000 and in particular its part III, entitled "Arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session", namely, the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[2]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, entitled "Institutional arrangements for international cooperation in the field of human settlements", and in particular its part VIII, "Cooperation with organizations outside the United Nations system",

Recalling further its resolution 19/1 of 9 May 2003 entitled "Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme", and in particular rules 64, 65 and 66[19] regarding the role of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Bearing in mind paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Settlements to review its working methods in order to involve in its work the representatives of local authorities or international associations of local authorities, as appropriate, and the relevant actors of civil society, taking into account the rules and procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements and the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,

1. Decides to reconfirm, on request, the accreditation to the Governing Council of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. Decides further that accreditation of other local authorities referred to in rule 64 of the rules of procedure shall be approved by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the Executive Director in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council;

3. Decides also that accreditation shall be automatically granted, on request, to non-governmental organizations, including other Habitat Agenda partners, which are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

4. Decides further that other Habitat Agenda partners referred to in rule 65 of the rules of procedure that were not accredited according to operative paragraphs 1 and 3 above may be invited by the Executive Director and accredited on an ad hoc basis to a session of the Governing Council; the Executive Director shall submit the list of such partners to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for approval on a

no-objection basis by final decision of the Committee, and to Governments not represented on the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their consideration, 10 weeks in advance of the Governing Council session;

5. Requests the Executive Director to disseminate widely all relevant information on procedures for accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/9. Themes for the twentieth session of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the themes of the twentieth session of the Governing Council,[20]

Recalling the goals, principles, commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda,[2] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[6] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3]

Recalling the decision made in resolution 19/5 that a continuing focus of the twentieth and future sessions of the Governing Council should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers,

Decides that the two special themes of the twentieth session of the Governing Council shall be "Involvement of civil society in improving local governance" and "Post-conflict and natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction".

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/10. Urban-rural linkages and sustainable urbanization

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 6 of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[5] and paragraphs 163 and 169 of the Habitat Agenda,[2] which emphasize that urban and rural areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally and that an integrated approach is required to promote balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development,

Recalling also resolution 17/10 of 14 May 1999 of the Commission on Human Settlements, which requested that urban-rural interdependence be taken into consideration in the execution of the work programme of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) given the strong synergy between urban and rural areas,

Recalling further paragraph 3 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[6] which emphasizes that cities and towns are engines of growth contributing to the development of both rural and urban human settlements,

Recognizing that rural-urban linkages refer to complementary functions and flows of people, capital, goods, employment, information and technology between rural and urban areas,

Noting the significance attached to the subject during the Habitat Agenda partner dialogues on sustainable urbanization at both the first session of the World Urban Forum[13] and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August- 4 September 2002,

Acknowledging the importance of rural-urban complementarities for poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development and urbanization, and that positive urban-rural linkages can improve living conditions and employment opportunities for both rural and urban populations and thus help manage rural-urban migration,

Recognizing that domestic trade and infrastructure are the backbone of mutually beneficial urban-rural relationships and that the adequacy and efficiency of infrastructure provision determines, to a large extent, the success or failure of the relationships between cities and their rural hinterlands,

Recognizing also the importance of gender mainstreaming in all efforts related to the integration of the rural-urban dimension in sustainable human settlements development and management,

Recognizing further the importance of pro-poor economic and social policies given that rural-urban linkages provide opportunities for as well as constraints on poverty reduction,

Taking note of the theme paper[21] presented by the Executive Director,

Noting with appreciation the work which has already been carried out by UN-HABITAT in promoting urban-rural linkages in human settlements development and management,

1. Encourages Governments to institutionalize and integrate rural-urban linkages into their respective national and subnational development planning processes and to increase investment in physical, economic and social infrastructure with a view to stimulating sustainable local development, and increasing productivity and sustained economic growth, minimizing the ecological footprints of cities and enhancing better balanced and reciprocally beneficial urban-rural development and thus promoting sustainable urbanization;

2. Also encourages Governments to create as appropriate, or where they already exist to strengthen mechanisms for regional planning that view urban development from a holistic perspective;

3. Invites Governments to facilitate, inter alia through those mechanisms, the access of the poorer segments of both rural and urban populations to a variety of livelihood opportunities;

4. Requests the Executive Director to raise awareness regarding the direct relationship between positive urban-rural development linkages and sustainable urbanization and to help develop the capacity of central government and local authorities in that area, particularly in developing countries;

5. Also requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with appropriate partners, to disseminate good practices and policies on mutually beneficial urban-rural development relationships

which could be replicated in other countries, and to help develop the capacity of central Governments and local authorities in that area;

6. Invites Governments, bilateral agencies, multilateral organizations and private-sector organizations to consider providing resources to UN-HABITAT to support its work on promoting positive urban-rural linkages in the framework of sustainable urbanization strategies;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its next session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/11. Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

The Governing Council,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, which transformed the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements into a full-fledged United Nations Human Settlements Programme known as "UN-HABITAT" to enable it to better deliver its mandate of promoting and facilitating adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, of coordinating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[2] and of serving as a focal point for sustainable human settlements development issues in the United Nations system,

Aware of the General Assembly's concern, expressed in resolution 56/206, that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly in developing countries, with a view to improving human settlements, and recalling the commitments of Governments to, inter alia, promoting broad access to appropriate housing financing, increasing the supply of affordable housing and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development that will attract investment,

Noting the failure of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to develop as the financial and catalytic institution originally envisaged to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 56/206, which encourages the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and to enhance fundraising efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] and particularly the targets of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 and of halving by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water,

Recalling also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[22] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and particularly the target of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation,

Recalling further chapter 7 of Agenda 21,[23] on promoting sustainable human settlements development, for which UN-HABITAT is a designated focal point,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[15] and in particular the recognition of the need to mobilize domestic financial resources for development and investments, including in the fields of housing and shelter, and to reinforce national efforts in capacity-building in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in such areas as public finance and mortgage finance,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda, particularly its section E on international cooperation and coordination and those elements on domestic financial resources and economic instruments, and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[6] made by the General Assembly at its special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Istanbul + 5) in June 2001,

Noting that according to recent studies [24] there are nearly 1 billion poor people living in urban slums in developing countries, that that figure is projected to double by the year 2030 if present trends continue, accounting for approximately 40 per cent of the projected growth in the world population during that period, and that the anticipated growth of urban poverty and the anticipated increase in the number of poor people living in slums require positive and concrete action at national and international levels to find and implement solutions,

Noting also that financing from international sources can have an important catalytic and preparatory role to play in leveraging domestic investment funding for the alleviation of shelter and human settlement development problems,

Recognizing that financing sustainable urban development and revitalization, facilitating local communities' access to capital and attracting investment to urban development require innovative systems of financing at the international, national and local levels,

Stressing the need to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to facilitate requisite investments for improving human settlements for low-income and poor people, particularly in developing and transitional-economy countries,

Having considered the report[25] of the Executive Director on strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

1. Commends the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as exemplified by the doubling of total financial contributions in the current biennium, the resumption of funding from some member States that had suspended support pending revitalization and management reforms, the conclusion of multi-year commitments to finance core programmes of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation by some member States and the forging of new partnerships with multilateral financial institutions and regional development banks with a view to developing fast-track credit lines in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the international development goals of the Millennium Declaration and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

2. Urges the international community, particularly developed countries and others in a position to do so, to further extend their financial support to enable the Foundation to become effective in mobilizing domestic resources, both from the private and public sectors, for shelter and related

infrastructure in developing countries, with special focus on the needs of slum dwellers and low-income people;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue the work in strengthening the Foundation so as to provide finance for, inter alia:

(a) Supporting the core staff and programmes of UN-HABITAT;

(b) Mobilization of seed capital, domestic and other financial resources for shelter and related infrastructure with due priority to the needs of low-income households;

(c) Technical support services to foster and improve effectiveness in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the mobilization and utilization of domestic resources for the improvement of human settlements and to assist countries at both national and local levels in the preparation and implementation of projects;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to work with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector and other relevant partners to field test approaches through pilot projects and to develop longer term programmes to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. Decides to defer decisions on setting funding targets for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation activities set out under paragraph 3 above to the Governing Council at its twentieth session pending review in the light of experience gained and developments during the intervening period;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its next session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/12. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 18/11 of 16 February 2001, by which it requested the Executive Director to intensify dialogue among Governments at all levels and Habitat Agenda[2] partners on all issues related to effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, including principles and, as appropriate, legal frameworks, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also its resolution 18/10 of 16 February 2001 of the same date, by which it invited Governments, inter alia, to adopt policies and instruments of empowerment that decentralize authority as well as financial, technical and human resources to the local level, ensuring that new responsibilities are matched by the requisite resources,

Noting that the General Assembly in its resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002 reiterated the agreement by Governments to intensify dialogue where possible, including through the Governing

Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), on all issues related to effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country,

Convinced that efficient and effective local authorities are essential for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as contemplated in paragraph 213 of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] which in its paragraph 13 affirmed that success in the eradication of poverty depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country, and also on good governance at the international level and on transparencies in the financial, monetary and trading system,

Recalling also the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[6] which in its paragraph 39 welcomed the efforts of many developing countries, within their legal frameworks, to decentralize the management of cities and to give increased priority to the principles of good governance at all levels,

Reaffirming the commitment to the decentralization of authority and resources, as appropriate, as well as functions and responsibilities, to the level most effective in addressing the needs of the people, as called for in the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[4]

Taking note that the first session of the World Urban Forum, in its dialogue on decentralisation, recognised that the principle of subsidiarity[26] constitutes an underlying rationale to the process of decentralisation,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director entitled "Dialogues on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities"[27] and welcoming the efforts of the Executive Director to intensify the dialogue on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities among all levels of Governments,

1. Requests the Executive Director to take further steps and measures to intensify dialogue on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT, the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and at the second session of the World Urban Forum, with the aim of developing recommendations to be presented to the twentieth session of the Governing Council and documenting best practices;

2. Endorses the proposal, made by the Executive Director in her report, to establish, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives , a multi-disciplinary ad hoc advisory panel on decentralization with balanced participation of developing and developed countries to support the dialogue process;

3. Requests the Executive Director to take all necessary steps towards establishment of the ad-hoc advisory panel referred to in the previous paragraph and, if necessary, to initiate efforts to mobilize additional extra-budgetary resources to enable the ad hoc advisory panel to continue its tasks;

4. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its next session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/13. Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and its important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Recalling its resolution 18/3 of 16 February 2001, which invites all relevant stakeholders and partners to formalize partnerships with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) with a view to realizing the goals of the secure tenure and urban governance campaigns,

Recalling its resolutions 17/19 of 14 May 1999 and 18/8 of 16 February 2001 on partnership with youth,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995 in which the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond; and aware of the outcome of the review at the forty-first session of the Commission for Social Development of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the global situation of social groups including the youth,

Acknowledging that in paragraph 170 of its Plan of Implementation the World Summit on Sustainable Development[2] resolved to "promote and support youth participation and activities relating to sustainable development through, for example, supporting local youth councils or their equivalent, and by encouraging their establishment where they do not exist",

Taking note of the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[3] of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[4] which called for intensification of efforts towards enhancing the role of youth,

Noting with appreciation the partnerships already established by UN-HABITAT with several bilateral donors on undertaking urban youth development programmes focusing on crime prevention and employment generation,

Noting the establishment by the Executive Director of a Partners and Youth Section as a mechanism to support and advance the engagement of youth organizations in the work of the Programme,

Noting also the UN-HABITAT global campaign on urban governance, which promotes the involvement of youth in local governance; as well as the activities of UN-HABITAT in support of vulnerable urban youth within the framework of the Safer Cities Programme,

Considering the implementation of related youth programmes by various United Nations agencies and in specific the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, and the need to enhance inter-agency coordination on UN-HABITAT's work programme elements on youth employment and youth crime prevention at the city level,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen and advance the work programme of UN-HABITAT in the engagement of youth in urban governance and in addressing the problem of youth at risk, and to develop actions with special focus on capacity-building and poverty alleviation;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure the active participation of UN-HABITAT in the Secretary General's initiative on youth employment, in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to develop a Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development in Africa, in partnership with other relevant United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as, multilateral institutions and private foundations, in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

4. Requests the Executive Director to establish an interim youth consultative mechanism to contribute to the work of UN-HABITAT and to initiate the development of a draft strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth and youth organisations including Youth for Habitat International Network in the work of UN-HABITAT, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, in 2005;

5. Invites Governments to support and enable the participation of youth in national and local activities related to human settlements development, including through the formulation of integrated, gender-sensitive and cross-sectoral youth policies at the local level and through supporting the development of local youth plans of action targeting vulnerable groups;

6. Invites Governments to develop programmes to sensitize and educate youth in sustainable development, particularly in matters of human settlements.

7. Encourages Governments, as appropriate, to allocate financial resources for protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of urban children and urban youth at risk;

8. Invites Governments, non-governmental and private-sector organizations and international financial institutions to provide or increase their support to the activities of UN-HABITAT on urban youth development programmes;

9. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its next session progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/14. World Urban Forum, Barcelona 2004

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 18/5 of 16 February 2001 in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director "to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and

the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda".

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, and in particular paragraph 3 of section B, in which the General Assembly decided that the Forum would be a "non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet".

Further recalling paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001 in which the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT),

Taking note of the close relationship between the objectives of the World Urban Forum and those of the Universal Forum of Cultures (Barcelona, 9 May to 26 September 2004), which is supported by the Economic and Social Council and organized by a consortium between the Government of Spain, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the Municipality of Barcelona,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the first session of the World Urban Forum,[28]

Having heard the explanations on the Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona, 2004, in whose framework the second session of the World Urban Forum will be held,

1. Welcomes the wide participation at the first session of the World Urban Forum by Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners and the successful outcome of the session including its recommendations on sustainable urbanization which were submitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 26 August to 4 September 2002;

2. Takes note of the objectives and working arrangements for future sessions of the World Urban Forum as contained in annex IV of the report of its first session;

3. Confirms that the World Urban Forum should serve as a think tank of experts who advise the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on issues concerning international cooperation in the area of shelter and sustainable urbanization;

4. Reiterates that, in addition to Governments, attendance at sessions of the World Urban Forum should be as inclusive as possible so as to ensure that local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners participate in the identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned, best practices and good policies with a view to facilitating the optimum exchange of experiences and the advancement of collective knowledge among Governments, cities and their development partners in the field of shelter and sustainable urbanization;

5. Welcomes, with appreciation, the invitation by the Government of Spain, the Municipality of Barcelona and the Universal Forum of the Cultures Barcelona 2004, for the World Urban Forum to hold its second session in the city of Barcelona from 13 to 17 September 2004;

6. Requests the Executive Director to take into account the deliberations and decisions of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council in her preparation of the provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the World Urban Forum;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to provide adequate organizational and substantive support to the preparations for and convening of the second session of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona;

8. Urges all Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to attend and participate actively in the deliberations of the second session of the World Urban Forum;

9. Invites Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund which will be utilized by the Executive Director to support the travel and participation of representatives of the least developed countries and of Habitat Agenda partners in the second session of the World Urban Forum;

10. Also welcomes, with appreciation, the invitation by the Prime Minister of Canada for the World Urban Forum to hold its third session in Vancouver in the year 2006;

11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twentieth session on the outcome of the second session of the World Urban Forum;

12. Considers the Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona 2004, an initiative of great interest for UN-HABITAT and gives its full support to it.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/15. Countries with economies in transition

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/179 of 15 December 1998 on integration of the economies in transition in the world economy ,

Recalling also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[6] adopted by General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session,

Bearing in mind the Commission on Human Settlements resolution 18/7 of 16 February 2001 on countries with economies in transition,

Convinced of the need for improved urban development and housing policies and practices in the countries with economies in transition, especially those which are suffering from economic problems in their development at the current stage,

Noting that the work in this field of activities is also ongoing in other organizations, in particular in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

1. Requests the Executive Director to render assistance in mobilizing additional funding from the sources indicated in paragraph 48 of the above-mentioned Declaration as well as from donors

and international funds, from the United Nations Development Program and other agencies within the United Nations system,

2. Invites the Executive Director to fully incorporate countries with economies in transition in activities of global programmes and global campaigns of UN-HABITAT, focusing on the solution of the following problems:

(a) Further development of housing planning zoning, rules of local use and development of the urban settlement;

(b) Improved urban development planning, taking account of market principles and sustainability;

(c) Improved systems of property and land registries;

(d) Reform of management of the housing stock;

(e) Improvement in the management of engineering infrastructure in the cities;

(f) Introduction of sustainable transportation infrastructure elements in the course of the planning of human settlements;

(g) Protection of tenants' rights to participate in local decision-making in line with the global campaigns of secure tenure and urban governance;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its twentieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/16 Women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitment made by Governments in the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[6] to ensure the full and equal participation of all women and men and the effective participation of youth in political, economic and social life,

Recognizing that the empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health and the eradication of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements (resolution 17/11 of 14 May 1999),

Bearing in mind the importance that the Habitat Agenda,[7] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), places on women's equal access to adequate housing, land and property, and the importance of all actors adopting and implementing policies, laws and programmes aimed at the realization of these rights,

Recalling paragraph 23 of the Habitat Agenda, which states that, "[w]hile the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be

borne in mind, it is the duty of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development",

Recalling further paragraph 24 of the Habitat Agenda, which states that "implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including implementation through national laws and development priorities, programmes and policies, is the sovereign right and responsibility of each State in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and taking into account the significance of and with full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities, contributing to the full enjoyment by all of their human rights in order to achieve the objectives of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development",

Recalling the Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2000/13 of 17 April 2000, 2001/34 of 23 April 2001, 2002/49 of 23 April 2002 and 2003/22 of 22 April 2003 on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing, as well as the emphasis placed on women's equal access to land, credit, adequate shelter and basic services in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[9]

Stressing that the impact of gender-based discrimination and violence against women on women's equal access to adequate housing, land and property is acute, particularly during complex emergency situations, reconstruction and rehabilitation,

Also recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women,

Mindful of the commitment to formulate and strengthen policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements, planning and decision-making, made in the Habitat Agenda (inter alia, paragraph 184), and reaffirmed in the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[6] (inter alia, paragraph 44),

Mindful also that in its resolution 16/6 of 7 May 1997 on women in human settlements development, the Habitat Commission had requested the creation of a Gender Coordinating Unit directly under the Executive Director in order to mainstream the gender perspective in all policies, projects, programmes and activities of the Centre (also resolution 17/11 of 14 May 1999),

Bearing in mind the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways of combating poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable (paragraph 20),

Recalling also the Goal in the Millennium Declaration of making a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,

Recognizing that women form a large proportion of the urban poor, especially those living in slums,

Recognizing also that urban poor women and children are particularly severely affected by unlawful forced evictions and emphasizing the need for promoting policy alternatives to unlawful forced evictions through the campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance,

Bearing in mind also the importance of the empowerment of women in the fight against HIV/AIDS,

Emphasizing that gender mainstreaming is a priority for the whole of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT),

1. Requests the Executive Director, in developing and implementing UN-HABITAT gender policy, to promote the full integration of gender perspectives in all activities of UN-HABITAT, especially in the campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance and in slum upgrading projects;

2. Requests the Executive Director in consultation with Governments to develop or, where they already exist, to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the impact of human settlement policies and programmes on the lives and work of women in cities, especially those in low-income areas and slums, as well as strengthening women's networks and other organizations active in this area;

3. Invites Governments to increase financial and other assistance to UN-HABITAT to enable the Programme to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender issues and the work of the Gender Coordinating Unit, in particular in support of gender-specific slum upgrading projects and especially those related to employment creation, women's empowerment, housing improvement and property rights;

4. Also requests Governments to promote and protect women's equal access to adequate housing, property and land including rights to inheritance, and to secure access to credit through appropriate constitutional, legislative and administrative measures;

5. Encourages Governments to support the transformation of customs and practices that discriminate against women and deny women security of tenure and equal ownership of, access to and control over land and equal rights to own property and to adequate housing;

6. Urges Governments to address the issue of forced relocation and forced evictions[29] from home and land, and to eliminate its disproportionate impact on women;

7. Urges Governments to promote the effective participation of women in human settlements planning and development at all levels of government and in particular to utilize the untapped resources and knowledge of urban, poor women in local community development;

8. Also urges Governments to ensure gender sensitive implementation of slum upgrading programmes and in particular to emphasize poor women's rights and equal access to adequate housing and land and need for secure tenure, basic amenities and income generating activities and education and measures to protect women and girls against violence;

9. Requests Governments to promote credit schemes for shelter and income generating activities that are affordable to poor women in particular those affected by HIV/AIDS;

10. Also requests the Executive Director to include a report on the implementation of the present resolution in her progress report to the Governing Council at its twentieth and future sessions.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/17. Least developed countries

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the endorsement of the Brussels Declaration[30] and the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 – 2010[31] by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001,

Noting the rapid rate of urbanization in developing countries, which include 49 least developed countries, and the fact that the process is accompanied by the growth of slums, poverty, rising insecurity, risk, vulnerability and frequent disasters,

Appreciating the good work the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has done through post-war, post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction in affected least developed countries such as Afghanistan, Eritrea, Haiti and Liberia,

Observing with concern that the least developed countries continue to face daunting challenges in the management of human settlements and alleviation of urban poverty,

1. Requests UN-HABITAT to continue to give special attention to least developed countries in its programme activities;

2. Emphasizes the importance of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

3. Invites the Executive Director to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in UN-HABITAT activities as well as in its intergovernmental processes, as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and resolution 57/276 of 20 December 2002;

4. Calls on the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to cooperate fully with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to ensure the effective implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

19/18. Human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its several resolutions regarding the global development of human settlements, particularly the consolidation of the efforts of the international community and its organizations to provide adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world as elaborated in the Habitat Agenda,[2] and recalling relevant resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

Recognizing the need for continued cooperation among member states within the spirit of the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[6] to achieve practical programmes that enhance sustainable shelter development goals,

Conscious of the special housing and human settlements needs of the Palestinian people and recognizing that they fall within the technical mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT),

Recognizing that shelter and human settlements are key elements in reaching a peaceful and sustainable peace in the Middle East,

Expressing the hope that the Israelis and the Palestinians will renew efforts to jointly develop a human settlements programme for the Palestinian people,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Executive Director on the housing situation and needs assessment in the occupied Palestinian Territories,[32]

1. Endorses the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian people and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of $5 million for an initial period of two years, as proposed by the Executive Director in her report;

2. Urges the international donor community and all financial institutions to support UN-HABITAT in the immediate mobilization of financial resources towards the establishment and operation of the programme and the fund;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report to it at its twentieth session on progress in the operations of the Special Human Settlements Programme, including progress in the mobilization of financial resources for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.

8th meeting
9 May 2003

Annex II

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. The Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council was established by the Governing Council at its first meeting of the session, on 5 May 2003, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Arumugan Thondaman, Vice-President of the Governing Council, and was requested to consider the draft rules of procedure set forth in document HSP/GC/19/3/Add.2. Those draft rules had been prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT, the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council. The Committee of Permanent Representatives had reached agreement on all 69 draft rules with the exception of draft rules 64 and 65, which had been placed in square brackets at the request of a number of delegations.

2. The Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council held six meetings between 6 and 9 May 2003. During the first meeting, the Working Group adopted all the 69 draft rules set forth in document HSP/GC/19/3/Add.2 with the exception of draft rules 64, 65 and 66, which the Working Group considered extensively during its subsequent meetings. The texts which were finally adopted by the Working Group for draft rules 64, 65 and 66 are attached hereto as appendix I for consideration and adoption by the Governing Council.

3. The Working Group also considered and adopted two draft resolutions entitled "Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT" and "Arrangements regarding the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners". The draft resolutions are attached hereto as appendices II and III for consideration and adoption by the Governing Council.

4. At its fifth meeting, the Working Group decided that the statement by the Chair giving a legal interpretation of the phrase "recognized by the United Nations" in draft rule 64 should be annexed to the report of the Working Group. The statement is attached hereto as appendix IV.

Appendix I

Local authorities

Rule 64

Duly accredited representatives of local authorities, invited by the Executive Director, in consultation with their respective governments, where requested, or representing national or international associations or organizations recognized by the United Nations, may participate, as observers at public meetings, in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs.

Other Habitat Agenda partners

Rule 65

1. Duly accredited representatives of other Habitat Agenda partners may sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Non-governmental organizations

Rule 66

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs. A non-governmental organization attending a meeting of the Governing Council may, upon the invitation of the President and with the approval of the Governing Council, make oral statements on matters within the scope of its activities.

Appendix II

Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) (8 May 2003)

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, which established the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, whereby the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, and decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT would serve as the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council,

Recalling further paragraph 2 of part I A of General Assembly resolution 56/206, which requested the Governing Council to propose, for consideration by the General Assembly, the new rules of procedure of the Governing Council, on the basis of the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements and bearing in mind paragraphs 3, 7 and 8 of part I A of that same resolution,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT in the drafting of the new rules of procedure,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT annexed to resolution 19/1.

Appendix III

Arrangements regarding the accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners (L.8/Rev.3)

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, which transformed, with effect from 1 January 2002, the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and requested the Governing Council to propose its rules of procedure for consideration by the General Assembly,

Recalling also and in particular paragraph 3 of part I A of that resolution, whereby the General Assembly decided that the practices regarding the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the Governing Council would be according to the relevant rules of the Economic and Social Council with regard to participation and accreditation, that the established practices of the Commission on Human Settlements would be utilized, and that such practices would in no way create a precedent for other governing bodies of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 50/100 of 20 December 1995 which, inter alia, endorsed the rules of procedure[1] for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey from 3 to 14 June 1996, and particularly Rules 62 and 63, on the participation of designated representatives of local authorities and accredited non-governmental organizations in the deliberations of Habitat II,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000 and in particular its part III, entitled "Arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session", namely, the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, entitled "Institutional arrangements for international cooperation in the field of human settlements", and in particular its part VIII, "Cooperation with organizations outside the United Nations system",

Recalling further its resolution 19/-- of -- May 2003 entitled "Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT", and in particular rules 64, 65 and 66 regarding the role of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Bearing in mind paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Settlements to review its working methods in order to involve in its work the representatives of local authorities or international associations of local authorities, as appropriate, and the relevant actors of civil society, taking into account the rules and procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements and the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,

1. Decides to reconfirm, on request, the accreditation to the Governing Council of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. Decides further that accreditation of other local authorities referred to in Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure shall be approved by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the Executive Director in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council;

3. Decides also that accreditation shall be automatically granted, on request, to non-governmental organizations, including other Habitat Agenda partners, which are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

4. Decides further that other Habitat Agenda partners referred to in Rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure that were not accredited according to operative paragraphs 1 and 3 above may be invited by the Executive Director and accredited on an ad hoc basis to a session of the Governing Council: the Executive Director shall submit the list of such partners to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for approval on a no-objection basis by final decision of the Committee, and to Governments not represented on the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their consideration, 10 weeks in advance of the Governing Council session;

5. Requests the Executive Director to disseminate widely all relevant information on procedures for accreditation of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.

Appendix IV

Oral statement by the Chairman of the Working Group on Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council

This statement clarifies (i) the meaning of the phrase "recognized by the United Nations", inserted in Rule 64, referring to "national or international associations or organizations of local authorities" and (ii) the requirement that the Secretariat highlight for all United Nations Member States the content of Rule 64 and ask if they require consultation before the Executive Director invites their respective local authorities to a Governing Council session.

Rule 64, as agreed upon in the Working Group, reads as follows:

> "Duly accredited representatives of local authorities, invited by the Executive Director, in consultation with their respective governments, where requested, or representing national or international associations or organizations **recognized by the United Nations**, may participate, as observers at public meetings, in the deliberations of the Governing Council and its subsidiary bodies."

The Working Group understands that national or international associations or organizations of local authorities may be considered to be "recognized by the United Nations" if they have been accredited to any conference or intergovernmental meeting under the auspices of the United Nations or its principal or subsidiary organs, or if they enjoy Economic and Social Council consultative status.

Furthermore, national or international associations or organizations of local authorities that meet neither of the above conditions must be approved (i.e., "recognized") by a relevant intergovernmental organ of the United Nations. Such organs include: the UN-HABITAT Governing Council itself, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The approval of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council should be sufficient for the participation of those associations and organizations in its meetings.

The Working Group also agreed that the Executive Director will notify all Member States of the United Nations, at least six months before the next Governing Council meeting, of the provision on consultation of Governments contained in Rule 64 and ask the Member States if they require such consultation. Once a Government has indicated that it requires to be consulted, that requirement shall remain in force until withdrawn, in writing, by that Government.

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
		Notification by the Executive Director
3	HSP/GC/19/1	Provisional agenda
3	HSP/GC/19/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda including organization of work: note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/19/2 and Corr.1	Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: progress report of the Executive Director
4	HSP/GC/19/2/Add.1	First session of the World Urban Forum: report of the Executive Director
4	HSP/GC/19/2/Add.2	World Summit on Sustainable Development: report of the Executive Director
4	HSP/GC/19/2/Add.3	Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of resolution 18/12 Housing situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and establishment of a human settlements fund for the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories
4	HSP/GC/19/2/Add.4	Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: report of the Executive Director

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
4	HSP/GC/19/3/Rev.1	Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) during the intersessional period: note by the secretariat.
4	HSP/GC/19/3/Add.1/Corr.1	Draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT): note by the secretariat.
4	HSP/GC/19/3/Add.2	Preparation of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council: report of the Executive Director.
5	HSP/GC/19/4	Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: report of the Executive Director.
6	HSP/GC/19/5	Urban development strategies and shelter strategies favouring the poor: report of the Executive Director.
6	HSP/GC/19/6	The rural dimension of sustainable urban development: report of the secretariat.
7	HSP/GC/19/7	Dialogues on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities: report of the Executive Director.
8	HSP/GC/19/8/Rev.1	Proposed work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements programme for the biennium 2004-2005: report of the Executive Director

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
8	HSP/GC/19/9	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) for the biennium 2004 - 2005 : report of the Executive Director
8	HSP/GC/19/9/Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: note by the secretariat
8	HSP/GC/19/9/Add.2	Supplementary information pursuant to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
8	HSP/GC/19/9/Add.3	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UN-HABITAT) for the biennium 2004-2005: Lower level budget scenario for the biennium 2004-2005
9	HSP/GC/19/10	Proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2006-2009: note by the Executive Director
10	HSP/GC/19/11	Joint progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
10	HSP/GC/19/12	Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations: report of the Executive Director

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
10	HSP/GC/19/13	Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council: report of the Executive Director.
11	HSP/GC/19/14	Themes for the twentieth and future sessions of the Governing Council: report of the Executive Director
8	HSP/GC/19/BD/1	Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 2004-2005: note by the secretariat
8	HSP/GC/19/BD/2	United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF): Financial report for the biennium ended 31 December 2001 and report of the Board of Auditors: note by the secretariat
10	HSP/GC/19/BD/3	Principal resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions of relevance to the work of the Governing Council
3	HSP/GC/19/INF/1	State of preparedness of documents for the nineteenth session of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session as of 10 March 2003
3	HSP/GC/19/INF/2	List of documents before the Governing Council
4	HSP/GC/19/INF/3	Global Report on Human Settlements, 2003: note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/19/INF/4	Operational Activities Report, 2002: note by the secretariat

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
5	HSP/GC/19/INF/5	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 15 March 2003: note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/19/INF/6	Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals: note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/19/INF/7	Housing situation and housing needs assessment in the occupied Palestinian territories: note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/19/INF/8/Rev.1	Proposal human settlements fund for Palestinian people: note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/19/INF/9	Update on the regionalization strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
4	HSP/GC/19/INF/10	Update on the strategic vision of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Annex IV

SUMMARIES BY THE CHAIR OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME AND OF THE DIALOGUES ON EFFECTIVE DECENTRALIZATION AND THE STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND FINANCING SLUM UPGRADING

A. High-level segment

Introduction

1. The high-level segment of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme comprised three plenary meetings, held on 5, 6 and 9 May 2003. Discussions focused on the following two main issues: the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT): progress report of the Executive Director (agenda item 4); and the follow-up to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[2] (agenda item 5). The two items were introduced by the Executive Director.

1. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Progress report of the ExecutiveDirector

2. Many delegations expressed their approval of the UN-HABITAT work programme, and in particular its two objectives of "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world." Some delegations praised the report on the utilization of resources, as well as the inclusion of a subprogramme on financing human settlements in the UN-HABITAT medium-term plan.

3. Several delegations emphasized the positive role played by UN-HABITAT and UN-HABITAT mechanisms in their countries. It was stressed, however, that UN-HABITAT needed to move firmly to implement concrete projects in cooperation with national Governments, and in this connection, it was argued that UN-HABITAT should strive to strengthen and expand its network of regional offices. Those delegations called for a stronger, more action-oriented UN-HABITAT, but also praised UN-HABITAT for the update of its strategic vision to incorporate both normative and operational elements. Other delegations urged UN-HABITAT not to spread itself too thinly, but to focus instead on its core areas or areas of particular importance such as water and sustainable environmental planning and improvement of management practices, as called for in the General Assembly's Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium.[5]

4. A number of delegations expressed the view that poverty and other issues affected women and youth in particular and argued for the need to integrate their needs into all policies.

5. Many delegations stressed the importance of decentralization of governmental authority, arguing that it was critical to successful programmes. Some observed that while many central Governments had already devolved considerable responsibility for human settlements issues to local governments, budget authority had not always been correspondingly delegated. In a similar vein, one delegation asserted that it was time for UN-HABITAT to decentralize its programmes to the national level, noting that there were a number of decentralized UN-HABITAT programmes in its country, and welcoming the Executive Director's policy statement on the

establishment of a national-level partnership between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

6. The importance of partnerships was emphasized repeatedly. The view generally held was that the United Nations and other international organizations could not successfully address the challenges posed by rapid urbanization without partnerships with all sectors of civil society, including the for-profit sector, academia and others. Poverty and other human settlements issues were complex, and their solution would therefore require an integrated approach, based on community participation. Impediments to greater civil society involvement in UN-HABITAT's activities included lack of involvement in programmatic issues, inadequate technical capabilities and lack of financial resources. In this vein, it was observed that UN-HABITAT's well-established practice of partnership was one of its greatest assets. Greater involvement of civil society in UN-HABITAT's activities was urged, and it was suggested that the Governing Council's rules of procedure should be structured in such a way as to secure the active participation of UN-HABITAT partners. It was also emphasized that UN-HABITAT programmes had to be consistent with the programmes and priorities of national Governments, and UN-HABITAT was encouraged to maintain a continuous dialogue with Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners.

7. Many delegations stressed the importance of providing increased funds to UN-HABITAT; most called for more contributions of non-earmarked funds, but one asserted that contributions should be aimed mainly at the core activities of UN-HABITAT. It was pointed out that most contributions came from a small number of donor countries, and countries from all points on the development spectrum were called on to increase their contributions. The need for increased, and more predictable, funding was raised; States that had not contributed previously were urged to do so. The strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlement Foundation was also called for, in line with General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXXX) of 16 December 1974. By the same token, several delegations cautioned that UN-HABITAT's budget should be kept on a realistic and achievable basis, and should be based on a zero growth principle with respect to its impact on the regular United Nations budget. A number of delegations lamented what they described as a drop in the level of international support for shelter for the poor, while another argued for measures to enable the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to mobilize funds and financing for developing country implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Debt burden, trade limitations and inadequacy of new and additional resources affected the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in developing countries operating in an international environment.

8. In the context of the funding of UN-HABITAT, the delegation of Kenya pledged an increase in its country's contribution to 3.8 million Kenyan Shillings annually for three years, starting with the 2004/2005 financial year.

9. The delegation of Norway announced that it would respond to the calls by the Executive Director for more stable and predictable funding by pledging to contribute two million Norwegian Kroner to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, in addition to the 10 million Norwegian Kroner it had already contributed to UN-HABITAT for 2003.

10. The importance of monitoring UN-HABITAT activities at both national and local levels was raised, and it was suggested that an updated and regularly issued *Global Report on Human Settlements*, together with more focused in-depth reports, could serve this function. The UN-HABITAT Global Urban Observatories were also identified as vehicles through which effective research and monitoring could be achieved. In light of this, the need for Governments to continue supporting the monitoring of national and local trends in the implementation

of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and relevant goals of the Millennium Declaration was emphasized.

11. While praising UN-HABITAT's activities, several delegations argued that developing countries were not adequately represented in UN-HABITAT and the rest of the United Nations system with respect to the recruitment of personnel and human resources.

12. A number of delegations expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Action as they pertained to housing and called on development partners to join hands in these endeavours.

13. Several delegations from countries devastated by conflict detailed the resulting massive destruction of human settlements and enormous numbers of displaced persons and refugees. One delegation requested that development partners strengthen efforts to provide assistance and honour their commitments to war-torn countries.

14. The delegation from Uganda pledged that his country would make a humble contribution to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as a mark of its full support for a revitalized Foundation capable of catering for slum upgrading programmes.

15. Several delegations commended the elevation of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT as an intersessional body to represent the Governing Council.

16. One delegation expressed doubts about the viability of a World Charter of Local Self-Government on a binding basis. He requested further discussions on this topic.

17. A delegation welcomed the outcome of the Third World Water Forum held in Kyoto, in March 2003 and the UN-HABITAT report on "Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities - Local Actions for Global Goals", and looked forward to the timely implementation of its adopted Ministerial Declaration.

18. The delegation from Cameroon noted two forthcoming events in Yaounde, Cameroon, that is the twenty-second General Assembly of Shelter Afrique in June 2003 and the third edition of Africites in December 2003.

2. Follow-up to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (agenda item 5)

19. Most delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium. Many delegations also welcomed the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its linkages to the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and to the relevant goals of the Millennium Declaration.

20. Many delegations noted that the current session was the first since the elevation of UN-HABITAT to a full programme of the United Nations, and all welcomed the new status of UN-HABITAT which would enhance its ability to advance the human settlements agenda and to implement the goals of the Millennium Declaration. It also implied a heightened responsibility to act effectively, and more would now be expected of it. Furthermore,

the elevation of UN-HABITAT was evidence that the international community was taking human settlements issues seriously.

21. Many delegations also paid tribute to the Executive Director, praising her efforts and role in solving the problems that had beset the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and in guiding it through the process of change that had culminated in its elevation to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

22. Most delegations spoke of rapid urbanization as a crucial phenomenon with a profound impact on human settlements issues. That phenomenon posed one of the greatest challenges to implementation of the Habitat Agenda; others included poverty, lack of adequate shelter, insecurity of tenure and lack of good governance. In light of such issues, many delegations voiced their support for the UN-HABITAT medium-term plan.

23. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted UNDP's commitment to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to continued collaboration with UN-HABITAT, as well as to strengthening its partnership with local authorities, especially in addressing peri-urban problems.

24. A number of developing country delegations outlined steps that were being taken in their countries in the area of human settlements. These included stepped-up urban and rural housing and infrastructure development within a framework of sustainable development, legislation to regularize informal settlements and otherwise provide secure tenure, enhanced pollution control, increased urban planning, including the use of urban master plans, and government assistance in the area of shelter finance or improvements in access to private sector credit. Several noted considerable progress in areas such as housing availability, pointing out high levels of home ownership or occupancy, and access to clean water and sanitation. Others spoke of successful decentralization. One delegation noted that the goal of housing availability had been achieved in his country, and the focus had therefore now shifted to guaranteeing a desirable standard of living and to improving sub-standard housing.

25. A number of developing country delegations noted that reforms and policies had been enacted in their countries, but some had not yet been implemented for lack of funding.

26. Most delegations recognized the importance of linkages between urban and rural areas, and emphasized the need to improve rural life as a means of removing the incentive for excessive rural-urban migration. Preventing such migration any other way would be impractical. At the same time, it was recognized that urbanization was not an unqualified evil, and that cities provided many benefits. Rather than attempt to eliminate or reduce either rural or urban settlements, ways had to be found to make the two complement one another.

27. The role of poverty and its impact on all was stressed. Macroeconomic considerations too were seen as impediments to sustainable human settlements; high-interest rates, high inflation and unstable exchange rates all made private investment in shelter – which was seen as critical to sustainable settlements – difficult and often impossible, especially for the poor. In this regard, it was noted that there was a great need for pro-poor international funding mechanisms in the area of housing and human settlements, and the Executive Director's initiative on the proposed Global Shelter Facility was praised as a step in the right direction.

28. The need to strengthen partnerships for the mobilization of resources for investment in shelter and sustainable human settlements development was also emphasized by a number of delegations, as was the need for innovative financial mechanisms and upgrading of skills in developing countries for the implementation of

the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the Millennium Declaration.

29. The delegation from Spain introduced the Universal Cultural Forum to be held in Barcelona in September 2004. This was a new type of international event under the auspices of UNESCO, which provided an opportunity for civil society and international society to interact. The three main themes of the Forum seen as defining issues for mankind and the planet were peace; sustainable development and cultural diversity; and dialogue between cultures and civil society. Intense negotiations were also ongoing in preparation for the second session of the World Urban Forum, also to be held in Barcelona, from 13 to 17 September 2004.

B. Dialogue I: Effective Decentralization and the Strengthening of Local Authorities

30. A dialogue on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities was held on 6 and 7 May 2003. The first part of the dialogue, on effective decentralization, was held at the 4th plenary meeting on 6 May 2003; the second part, on strengthening local authorities, was held at the 5th plenary meeting on 7 May 2003.

Part 1 Effective decentralization

1. Introduction

31. The dialogue on effective decentralization was opened by the President of the Governing Council, Mr Bo Göransson, and moderated by Ms. Mercedes Bresso, President of the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) and the United Towns Organizations (UTO). The subject was introduced by a panel of experts consisting of Mr. Richard Stren, Professor of Political Economy, University of Toronto, Canada; Mr. John Patrick Loughlin of the School of European Studies, Cardiff University, Wales, the United Kingdom; Ms. Christina Murray, Professor of Public Law, University of Cape Town, Republic of South Africa; Mr. Derek Osborn, a representative of the Regional Government Network for Sustainable Development, London, United Kingdom; Mr. Brian Ward of the International Centre for Municipal Development of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ottawa, Canada; and Ms. Erna Witoelar, Senior Regional Advisor, the Urban Governance Initiative (TUGI) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia Pacific Region.

32. The dialogue session on effective decentralization addressed the role of decentralization policies and principles in strengthening local governments to implement the Habitat Agenda and achieve sustainable development, as well as the commitments required from both local and national governments to achieve effective decentralization. It was held pursuant to Commission on Human Settlements resolution 18/11, which requested the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to intensify dialogue among all levels of Governments and Habitat Partners on all issues related to effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, including principles, and as appropriate, legal frameworks, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. A first dialogue on the subject was held at the First World Urban Forum in May 2002.

33. In introducing this dialogue, the panel of experts on decentralization expressed their views on the role of decentralization policies in generating effective and participatory governance and the desirability of mutually agreed upon principles and guidelines on decentralization to support the process of strengthening local governments. These observations were made in response to a presentation by one of the experts of a twenty-

eight country review on decentralization policies and on proposed areas, derived from that review, in which principles of decentralization may be further developed (i e. constitutional and legal frameworks; democratization and popular participation; and finance and fiscal arrangements). The general consensus of the experts was that such principles were desirable, but that in order to be effective, decentralization policies would need to combine decentralization of responsibilities with sufficient decentralization of resources and fiscal powers. Moreover, decentralization policies need to be spatially balanced, to be equitable and to enhance participation and to address the sub-national (regional) level.

2. Discussion

34. In the discussion that followed, statements and observations were made by representatives of Belgium, Burkina Faso, Egypt, France, Greece (on behalf of the European Union and the 10 accession States), India, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mexico, Switzerland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America. The representative of the Holy See also made a statement. A statement was also made by a representative of the Rio Urbano Foundation.

35. There was a general consensus among Governments responding to the presentations by the expert panelists of the positive role that decentralization policies can play to achieve sustainable human settlements development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. They generally expressed their support for the continuation of the dialogue on decentralization and of the development of possible principles. One delegation in particular, representing a grouping of countries, voiced strong and specific support for the establishment of an ad hoc advisory panel of experts to advise the dialogue process and for a substantial international framework of principles and guidelines on decentralization. Other representatives also highlighted their own experience with decentralization, which they generally evaluated as positive. One delegation, while generally supportive, emphasized that political decentralization must be linked to progress in social and economic development.

36. The issue of whether decentralization facilitates democracy was also addressed, as it was noted that there is often a close connection, though not necessarily a causal one. Several representatives also took the opportunity to offer clarifications on their country's situation concerning decentralization with regard to the conclusions of the background document for the dialogue. The dialogue session concluded with summary remarks from a representative on the panel from the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), Mr. Heinrich Hoffschulte, First Vice-President of the Council of Municipalities and Regions, the European Section of IULA, who welcomed the observations by Member States and their overall positive response to the presentations by the panel of experts.

Part 2: Strengthening of Local Authorities

1. Introduction

37. A dialogue with local authorities and other partners on the strengthening of local authorities was held at the 5th plenary meeting, on 7 May 2003 in the morning. Aside from formal documentation[33] the dialogue was supported by an informal background document jointly prepared by UN-HABITAT and the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) entitled "Partnership for Local Capacity Development – building on the experience of city-to-city cooperation".

38. The dialogue was opened by Mr. Bo Göransson, President of the Governing Council, who delivered introductory remarks and then handed moderation of the meeting to Ms. Mercedes Bresso, President of the

World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC). The dialogue was organized in three segments, each addressing the strengthening of local authorities from the distinct perspective of one of three key partner groups whose cooperation is required. The perspective of local authorities was discussed in the first segment with introductions from three mayors and heads of local authorities[34]. The perspective of international support programmes was discussed in the second segment with introductions from two representatives of local authority associations and international support programmes[35]. The perspective of the donor community was discussed in the third segment with introductions from representatives of France, United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[36]. There were lively contributions from the floor[37]. The President of the Governing Council closed the dialogue with concluding remarks.

2. Discussion

39. In debating the strengthening of local authorities, the speakers focused on three broad issues: the reasons and priorities for strengthening local authorities; the key partners in local capacity development and their roles; and the need to harmonize the diverse efforts of these key partner groups. Participants also shared practical lessons from concrete operational experience in the strengthening of local authorities.

40. Regarding the first issue, speakers noted that the strengthening of local authorities is closely linked to the debates on decentralization, local democracy, good governance, and the implementation of the principles of subsidiarity as agreed in the Habitat Agenda. Participants also observed that the need for the strengthening of local planning and management capacities has been emphasized in virtually all major global intergovernmental agreements, such as the Habitat Agenda, Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. All these stress local capacity development as a key prerequisite for achieving such fundamental development goals as poverty alleviation, gender equality, as well as socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development. Some participants highlighted in this context the important role of local authorities, for ensuring such vital services as water, sanitation, health, public transport, shelter, energy and security. Others felt that the need to strengthen the role of local authorities already is generally accepted. Speakers further underscored local management capacity as a significant factor in attracting private sector investment.

41. Regarding the second issue, speakers noted the important role of local authorities as the closest partners of national governments in the development of management capacities among all those local actors in the public, private and community sectors whose active participation is required. It was also argued that national Governments have a key role in providing the legal framework for local capacity development and in supporting all forms of capacity building – rather than using the lack of local capacities as a reason for opposing decentralization. This should include such strategic local capacity needs as the ability to effectively link across levels of government, the establishment of national associations of local authorities and the international sharing of know-how and lessons of experience. Speakers also commented on the important contributions made to these local efforts by international support programmes which differ in many important ways, reflecting the diversity of interests, resources and institutions from which they originate. In this context repeated mention was made of city-to-city cooperation as a cost effective means for local capacity development. Further, the important role of donors in strategically funding capacity development programmes of various types so as to respond to local priorities and promote cohesion and complementarity within the international development community was recognized. Speakers argued for making existing programmes more effective rather than creating new ones.

42. Regarding the third issue, speakers recognized the need for a systematic partnership among key interest groups in local capacity development, including local authorities and other local actors, national governments, international support programmes, and the donor community. The need for a common framework for city-to-city cooperation was suggested to develop the potential of peer to peer learning by capturing lessons and offering tools without limiting flexibility in the cooperation among cities. To facilitate such cooperation, participants highlighted the need for better information on city needs and available support. The "Partnership for Local Capacity Development", described in the WACLAC/UN-HABITAT background document, was recognized as a significant initiative that will promote the development of local capacities.

C. Dialogue II: Financing slum upgrading

1. Introduction

43. The dialogue on financing slum upgrading was held at the 6th plenary meeting on 7 May 2003 in the afternoon. The dialogue was presided over by Mr. Bo Göransson, the President of the Governing Council and moderated by Mr. John Hodges, formerly chief engineering advisor to the United Kingdom Department for International Development. The session generated debate on ways of mobilizing finance to improve the living and working conditions of the urban poor, including shelter, basic services, assets, small-scale enterprises, and other collective services, in line with the Cities without Slums Target of the Millennium Development Goals. The dialogue also served as an opportunity for delegates to the Governing Council to learn more about the substantive aspects inherent in strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

2. Discussion

44. At the outset of the session, Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, addressed the session via video recording, and underscored the importance of the Millennium Development Goals as the best hope for engaging the whole world in the quest to alleviate absolute poverty. He noted the huge cost of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the urgent need to mobilize resources. He called on rich countries to provide increased financial assistance to poor countries to help in this endeavour, whilst recognizing that this alone would not be sufficient.

45. Subsequently, five panelists presented their experience of the realities, challenges and best practices in financing slum upgrading. Presentations were made by Ms. Jane Weru, Executive Director of Pamoja Trust (Kenya), Mr. Oswar Mungkasa from the Neighbourhood Upgrading and Shelter Sector Project (NUSSP, Indonesia), Mr. Per Ljung, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PM Global, Ms. Pamela Lamoreaux, Manager, International Finance Corporation, and Mr. P.M. M'baye, Managing Director of Shelter Afrique. The presentations covered urban poor funds managed by grassroots and non-governmental organization sectors, national housing and neighbourhood improvement programmes, regional public-private initiatives, the role of international financial institutions in supporting private sector initiatives, and the use of loan-guarantee instruments to leverage domestic savings and capital.

46. In the discussion that followed, statements and observations were made by representatives of Greece (on behalf of the European Union and the ten accession States), Mali, Republic of South Korea, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States,. The non-governmental organization Homeless International also provided a statement.

47. There was general consensus that security of land tenure is an overarching issue fundamentally affecting financing initiatives. It was also recognized that financing slum upgrading requires an integrated, multi-faceted approach, combining finance mechanisms with capacity building and tenure security with access to affordable shelter, basic services and asset generation. Resources from the domestic public sector certainly have a role to play, and this presents a formidable challenge in many developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition. The potential of local, individual and community initiatives and resources, as well as contributions from the formal private sector, must also be harnessed. Speakers noted that there was a need to widen the reach of the formal private sector, and to support and scale up informal financing mechanisms. It was acknowledged that innovation of this kind requires a political enabling environment, and effective policy frameworks and legislation, including the political will to remove obstacles that prohibit the urban poor from participating effectively.

48. Many speakers stressed the importance of strengthening municipal level institutional arrangements and increasing the capacity of local governments, facilitating an appropriate environment for investment and for the development of local, sustainable solutions. Others emphasized the need to recognize community mobilization and related efforts to promote the capacity of the urban poor both to mobilize and manage local funds as an investment activity. It was considered that grant financing has a role to play in capacity building.

49. It was agreed that the large sums required for implementing target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals – estimated to be between US$ 50 and 100 billion - could not be met by overseas development assistance alone. It was important to leverage official development assistance such that it strengthens domestic financial mechanisms (both formal and informal), mobilizing domestic savings and capital for the purposes of improving the living and working conditions of the urban poor. There was optimism amongst participants that there is a new impetus to the development of innovative solutions to the financing of slum upgrading.

Annex V

SUMMARIES OF OPENING STATEMENTS

A. Statement by Mr. Ali-Ketrandji, Chair of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session

1. Mr. Ali-Ketrandji welcomed the delegates, noting that the current session was the first since UN-HABITAT had been upgraded to a programme of the United Nations General Assembly. Its new status, he said, was a clear recognition of UN-HABITAT and its governing body as the focal points within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. He paid tribute to the Executive Director, Mrs. Tibaijuka, who had made a tremendous difference in the fortunes of UN-HABITAT, and to all of the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, whose Governments had fully supported UN-HABITAT at the United Nations General Assembly when the critical decisions concerning the future of UN-HABITAT were being taken.

B. Statement by Mr. Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

2. In his opening address, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. Klaus Topfer, emphasized the close connection between UNEP and UN-HABITAT. The only two United Nations agencies headquartered in a developing country were also linked by the close relationship between urban and environment issues as mirrored in the Millenium Development Goals. He noted that the elevation of UN-HABITAT to full programme status was the conclusion of a successful revitalization process initiated by the General Assembly in their resolution 53/242.

3. He noted that the world's urban population was at present reaching three billion, two billion of whom were in developing countries. The world urban population was expected to double in the next 30 to 35 years when four out of five urban residents would be living in developing country megacities. He underlined the need for UNEP to consider and invoive the urban dimension when addressing regional and environmental issues directly linked to the fight against poverty, noting that there were many opportunities for cooperation between UNEP and UN-HABITAT.

4. In the wake of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the emphasis was on implementation and the cooperation of key players to act in addressing pressing issues. The importance of human settlements had been promoted by UN-HABITAT and UNEP at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and many of the partnership projects that came out of the Summit had a strong urban component.

5. Mr. Topfer informed representatives that UNEP was preparing a publication on the link between urbanization and the environment which would provide data in the form of tables and figures on the role of cities in environmental issues, building on the urban environment chapter of UNEP's *Global Environment Outlook* report.

6. The last meeting of UNEP's Governing Council, which had taken place three months previously, in Nairobi, had produced a very challenging programme of work with many activities directly or indirectly linked to the urban environment. He expressed UNEP's eagerness to participate in the two main themes of the present meeting and to cooperate fully with UN-HABITAT on these issues. He announced that UNEP had joined the Cities Alliance and looked forward to working closely with UN-HABITAT and other partners.

7. He noted, in conclusion, that UNEP and UN-HABITAT had prepared a joint progress report for the present session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT and the recent session of the Governing Council of UNEP, which highlighted their cooperation over recent years, including in the context of the Sustainable Cities Programme.

C. Statement by Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

8. In her opening statement, after welcoming the delegates to the first meeting of the Governing Council of the newly elevated United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Executive Director drew attention to the new status of UN-HABITAT as a fully-fledged programme of the United Nations which she described as a milestone and a clear signal from the international community that sustainable urban development, adequate shelter and the plight of the world's urban poor were irrevocable priorities on the world's development agenda. She noted, in this regard, that shelter and slums had been placed alongside the original five priorities of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

9. She also highlighted the Millennium Declaration, noting that it embraced a shared set of measurable goals and targets and that the achievement of those goals and targets represented humanity's greatest potential to rid the world of poverty. Of most direct relevance to UN-HABITAT was goal 7, target 11: to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

10. The Executive Director pointed out that as the most visible manifestation of urban poverty, slums were where the city's problems all came together. Disease, including HIV/AIDS, illiteracy, vulnerability and insecurity – especially of women and children – lack of adequate shelter, unemployment, pollution and a shortage of resources to resolve these issues all defined the slum. In curing the city of these manifold problems by upgrading the slum environment, the lives of slum dwellers would certainly be improved. The UN-HABITAT work programmes for the bienniums 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 clearly expressed this orientation.

11. It was essential, she said, not only to consider symptoms of poverty in the slums themselves, but also to restructure the economic, social and political vectors that nourish and transmit inequity and poverty. In the context of the United Nations system, UN-HABITAT in particular, would have to redouble efforts to develop demonstrable means for directly improving the slum environment and the lives of slum dwellers. The Executive Director stressed the importance of also turning attention to the root causes and carriers of urban poverty, which needed to be dealt with through effective local and regional development planning, as well as strong national pro-poor urban policies that are incorporated into national economic development plans and promoted by global institutions seeking to deliver a balanced territorial development.

12. The Executive Director noted that the UN-HABITAT strategic vision was both forward looking and pragmatic, being consistent with social norms and political principles as well as with UN-HABITAT mandates, capabilities and partners' objectives.

13. The first four elements of the strategic vision found their expression in the subprogrammes of the overall UN-HABITAT Work Programme and in the derivative divisional structure of the UN-HABITAT organization. The fifth element, strategic partnerships, was a *sine qua non* for the successful implementation of all UN-HABITAT objectives. The Executive Director then very briefly mentioned some of the key partnerships forged thus far, such as: The Cities Alliance; the landmark agreement between UN-HABITAT and UNDP

whereby national Habitat Programme Managers are being placed within UNDP country offices as advocates and experts on urban poverty reduction; the recently signed agreements between UN-HABITAT, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to collaborate in important spheres of activity; the recent public-private partnership with the leading maker of Geographic Information Systems software, the Environmental Sciences Research Institute; and the Partnership Agreement between UN-HABITAT and the Government of the Netherlands that encourages multi-year donor funding of work on selected themes, strategies and outputs of the UN-HABITAT biennial work programme.

14. She encouraged all delegations in that regard, to review the Partnership Agreement to determine how it might fit into their countries' development assistance frameworks and thanked Member States who had already agreed to give their support through this arrangement. In addition to slum upgrading, UN-HABITAT would have to strengthen its capacities in the areas of urban economic development and of urban regional development as well as its ability to advise on national urban policy and legislative initiatives.

15. For a variety of reasons, many of them political, cities in most developing countries had not been given the tools needed to play the strong role that modern development theory would assign to them. Without sufficient resources and proper capabilities, cities would continue to be perceived as a development problem not as a solution. She therefore urged Member States of the United Nations to become more confident in their own local authorities, expressing that confidence in policy that welcomes national subsidiarity in local matters.

16. The Executive Director pointed out that the United Nations Member States' commitment to decentralization, contained in the Habitat Agenda, implied an obligation to help the United Nations system target its technical cooperation activities to the local level. Although Member States are still the primary clientele for United Nations developmental activities, the need to prepare local authorities for a growing set of responsibilities begged for their support to a Programme that can work directly with local stakeholders, as well as with national governments, to serve as an advocate for both local interests and global norms.

D. Statement by H.E. Michael Wamalwa, Vice-President of Kenya

17. Vice-President Wamalwa bid an especially warm welcome to the delegates, acknowledging that the initial arrangements for the session had been characterized by uncertainty due to concerns over the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, and expressed satisfaction that the session had in the end commenced with little disruption. The session was taking place at a time when more than one million people had lost their homes due to flooding in Kenya. This was a tragedy, but the response by the international community had been tremendous, and the pledge of support by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT was most heartening.

18. He noted that the session was the first to take place after the elevation of UN-HABITAT to a programme of the United Nations, and that the change manifested a resolve by the international community to appropriately situate human settlement matters within the United Nations system. He also congratulated Ms. Tibaijuka on her election to the position of Executive Director, assuring her of Kenya's unwavering support for her efforts.

19. The Vice-President observed that since the last session, human settlements in developing countries had continued to suffer numerous calamities, including HIV/AIDS, poverty and, especially, civil conflict. As recognized in the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millenium, which called for international conflict resolution efforts, peace was a prerequisite to sustainable development. HIV/AIDS too was a major challenge, and was fast eroding the gains being made towards achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda. The role of the international community in providing technical support and capacity-building to overcome the scourge could not be over-emphasized.

20. He said that the poor generally and slum-dwellers in particular sorely needed safe drinking water and basic sanitation, as recognized by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The launching by UN-HABITAT of a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund in support of the Water for African Cities Programme was therefore to be welcomed. Kenya was committed to solving the problems of slums and informal settlements, and had signed a memorandum of understanding with UN-HABITAT to implement the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme, a collaborative initiative that had started in the Kibera Soweto informal settlement in Nairobi which, it was hoped, would be replicated in other cities throughout the country.

21. The Vice-President said that since sustainable human settlement was key to environmental sustainability, it was crucial for UN-HABITAT to work closely with UNEP in areas such as poverty reduction. Poverty was recognized on the agenda of the current session as a root cause of unsustainable patterns, and so he urged delegates and other stakeholders to vigorously discuss wealth creation and enhancement of economic growth. UN-HABITAT itself could not operate without adequate financial support, and in that vein, adequate and predictable funding for UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation was required.

E. Statement by Ms. Rosalinda Valenton-Tirona, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

22. Ms. Rosalinda Valenton-Tirona, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives reported to the Governing Council on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT during the intersessional period as requested in operative paragraph 8 of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 18/1 of 16 February 2001.

23. She recalled the establishment of the Committee in 1984, first as an informal body of Permanent Representatives accredited to the then United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), leading to the establishment of the Committee as an intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council at the meeting of the Bureau of the Governing Council on 31 October 2001. The General Assembly, after upgrading the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, further decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT would serve as the Governing Council's intersessional body.

24. She submitted the report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT on the work of the Committee during the period between the eighteenth and the nineteenth sessions of the Governing Council, as contained in document HSP/GC/19/3.

25. She noted that the Committee had conducted a total of 14 meetings with the Executive Director during the intersessional period. The Committee had reviewed and monitored the implementation of the UN-HABITAT work programme and the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session. In addition, and in accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee had prepared 12 draft resolutions on key issues which were on the agenda of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, as contained in document HSP/GC/19/3/Add.1.

26. The Committee had also prepared a draft text of the new rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT and two related draft resolutions which had been transmitted to the Governing Council for further consideration and appropriate action, and were contained in the third report of the Committee (HSP/GC/19/3/Add.2).

27. On behalf of the Bureau and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, she expressed her gratitude to the Executive Director and her staff for their full cooperation and assistance which had enabled the Committee to discharge its function. She also thanked the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their valuable contributions and hard work.

Annex VI

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MR. KOFI ANNAN, TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONSHUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION

1. It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to this nineteenth session, which is also the first meeting of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. I would like to express particular gratitude to President Kibaki, and to the Government and people of Kenya, for hosting UN-HABITAT in Nairobi since 1978. That support is just one measure of Kenya's enduring commitment to the United Nations.

2. The decision by Member States to upgrade the Centre to a full Programme indicates the seriousness with which the international community regards the problems caused by rapid urbanization. Indeed, such concerns and challenges – including the need to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 – are at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals and other commitments made by world leaders, including at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

3. Your role, as a newly transformed Governing Council, is to help the international community meet these targets. Your session offers an opportunity for progress in several critical areas. Good governance, for example, is a crucial factor in securing financing to improve conditions in slums and to provide safer water and sanitation services. Partnerships with local authorities and community groups will also be necessary to mobilize political and practical support and, not least, to ensure that projects and policies accurately reflect local needs and aspirations. And sustainable urban development will be incomplete unless it addresses the rural dimension. Therefore I urge you to consider a holistic approach, to take into account the economic and environmental concerns of neighbouring rural communities, and to encourage decentralization as a way of reducing the divide between rural and urban areas.

4. In the past, under guidance from its governing body, UN-HABITAT has been at the forefront of helping governments manage the complex problems of urbanization, including successful post-conflict rehabilitation and the reconstruction of urban areas. The international community continues to look to you to create a strategic vision that will help implement the Habitat Agenda and guide our collective efforts to build peaceful, prosperous cities and other human settlements. I wish you every success in your deliberations.

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[1] The membership of the governing Council was determined by elections held at the 9th plenary meeting of the Economic and Social Council, held on 30 April 2003.

[2] Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/278 of 8 September 2000.

[4] A/56/326.

[5] Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

[7] See A/54/764, chapter XV.

[8] HSP/GC/19/8/Rev.1 reflecting these to be issued after Governing Council.

[9] Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[10] A/53/463.

[11] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] HSP/GC/19/11.

[13] Report of the first session of the World Urban Forum, Nairobi, 29 April-3 May 2002, annex I, sections (3) and (6).

[14] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 4 (E/2001/24-E/CN.3/2001/25), para. 5, subparas. (a) and (b).

[15] Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[16] See HSP/GC/19/INF/6.

[17] HS/C/17/2/Add.2, annex.

[18] See General Assembly resolution 56/206, chap. I, sect. B, para. 1.

[19] See annex II of this report, "Report of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme".

[20] HSP/GC/19/14.

[21] HSP/GC/19/6.

[22] Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[23] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[24] Source: "Monitoring the millennium development goal, target 11: Slum dweller estimation", Africa Population and health research centre/UN-HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory, Nbi, April 2003.

[25] HSP/GC/19/2/Add.4.

[26] According to this principle, public responsibilities shall be exercised by those authorities which are closest to the citizens.

[27] HSP/GC/19/7.

[28] HSP/GC/19/2/Add.1.

[29] The prohibition on forced evictions does not, however, apply to evictions carried out by force in accordance with the law and in conformity with the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). General Comment No. 7 (1997), adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, HRI/GEN/1/Rev.3, p. 94.

[30] A/CONF.191/12.

[31] A/CONF.191/11.

[32] HSP/GC/19/2/Add.3.

[33] Resolution 18/10 on the role of local authorities, resolution 18/11 on effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, and HSP/GC/19/2 Add.2 the report of the Executive Director on the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

[34] Ms. Mercedes Bresso, President of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) and of the United Towns Organization (UTO); Mr. Amos Masondo, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa; and Ms. Jane C. Ortega, Mayor of San Fernando, Philippines;

[35] Mr. Heinrich Hoffschulte, first Vice President of the European Chapter of the International Union of Local Authorities (CEMR), and Mr. Bowing King of the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI);

[36] Mr. Jean-Marie Tetart of the French delegation, Ms. Marcia Urquhart Glenn of the USA delegation and Mr. Patrick Wakely of the UK delegation;

[37] Included interventions from Bangladesh, Belgium, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Germany, India, Lesotho, Norway, Russia, Zimbabwe, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, the African Union of Local Authorities, and UNITAR.

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